

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Created in 1977, the RI Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program coordinates statewide efforts to reduce lead poisoning in Rhode Island's children. The program is responsible for implementing the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act, which requires:

- universal screening for children under the age of six,
- surveillance of lead poisoning in the state,
- environmental inspections and case management for significantly lead poisoned children, and,
- public education and outreach efforts.

Through enforcement of the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for Lead Poisoning Prevention, Real Estate Disclosure Rule, and the Pre-Renovation Education Rule, the Program works to create a safer living environment for all Rhode Islanders.

Since November 2005, with the implementation of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law, the Program also works with the Housing Resources Commission to educate rental property owners about their responsibility to take the 3-hour course and remove lead hazards to obtain and maintain a Certificate of Conformance.

LEAD POISONING CAN BE PREVENTED.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT

Department of Health

Childhood Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program
1.800.942.7434

Lead Inspectors, regulations, enforcement,
licensing and training of lead contractors
1.401.222.1417

Analysis of blood lead screening
1.401.222.5600

Rhode Island Housing

Lead abatement loans
1.401.450.1350

Home repairs
1.401.457.1127

Department of Environmental Management

Correct exterior paint removal methods,
reporting of improper exterior paint removal
1.401.222.1360

Housing Resources Commission

Office of Healthy Housing
1.401.222.2083

Childhood Lead Action Project

Advocacy and support groups for parents;
education and outreach
1.401.785.1310

St. Joseph's Hospital

Free lead testing for uninsured children
1.401.456.4310

www.health.ri.gov/lead

Understanding Rhode Island's Lead Poisoning Prevention Law



**Information for Schools and
Healthcare Providers**



WHAT IS RHODE ISLAND'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION LAW?

The Rhode Island Lead Poisoning Prevention Law of 1991 is a state law requiring:

SCREENING

All children under 6 years of age are required to be screened for lead at least once annually. For children between 9 and 36 months of age:

- Screen once between 9 and 15 months of age, and,
- Screen again 12 months later, between 21 and 27 months of age.

For additional information and the most recent Lead Screening and Referral Guidelines, visit www.health.ri.gov/lead/children.php

PAYMENT FOR LEAD SCREENING

By law, lead screening is a covered benefit of all health insurance policies written by Rhode Island based insurers, including Medicaid and Rite Care.

INSPECTIONS

The Rhode Island Department of Health ensures that environmental lead inspections of the homes of significantly lead poisoned children are provided as part of treatment and follow-up. Children are considered significantly lead poisoned when they have:

- A confirmed blood test $\geq 20 \mu\text{g/dL}$, or
- Two blood tests of $15\text{-}19 \mu\text{g/dL}$, that are at least 90 days apart and done within one year.

WHAT ARE THE LEAD SCREENING ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS?

All public and private kindergartens, preschools, early childhood education programs or other childcare facilities are asked to require a statement from the child's healthcare provider at the time of initial enrollment showing compliance with lead screening requirements.

WHAT KIND OF STATEMENT IS NEEDED TO SHOW COMPLIANCE WITH LEAD SCREENING REQUIREMENTS?

A simple statement such as, "The child is in compliance with lead screening", with a healthcare provider's signature on a school health form is sufficient. Test dates or results are not required. It is the responsibility of the child's healthcare provider to ensure that the child is screened. No child should be excluded from school if he has not been screened for lead poisoning.

In the case that the blood lead screening is contrary to parents' religious beliefs or practices, the parent can sign a form. These forms can be obtained by calling the HEALTH Information line at 1-800-942-7434.



WHO PROVIDES LEAD SCREENING?

Lead screening is done through a blood test at the pediatrician's request. Community health centers and hospital clinics also perform the test.

Lead screening is also offered free of charge to uninsured children at:

St. Joseph's Hospital,
21 Peace Street, Providence, RI
401.456.4310

THE FACTS ABOUT LEAD POISONING

Lead can be found in many places in and around the home. It can be in:

- paint, especially peeling or chipping paint
- dust from lead paint
- water pipes
- soil in the yard

Lead poisoning is a serious disease caused by lead in the body. Even a small amount of lead is poison to a toddler or preschool aged child. A child's brain is very sensitive to small amounts of lead. Lead poisoning can harm a child's development and may cause serious health problems.

Childhood lead poisoning, which is caused by exposure to lead, is completely preventable. A simple blood test is the only way to detect lead poisoning.

**For more information, contact
the HEALTH Information Line
1.800.942.7434**