

# All Children in Chicago Are at Risk For Lead Poisoning



## Let's add lead poisoning prevention to your safety plan!

- ?** **What is lead?** It's a metal that's found in our environment and many products we use. It can be poisonous to people and animals.
- ?** **What is lead poisoning?** Lead poisoning happens when too much lead gets into the body, usually through breathing in lead dust or eating or drinking something contaminated by lead.

## Is lead poisoning harmful?

**Yes**, too much lead in the body can cause learning delays, behavioral issues, and other physical health problems.

- !** **There are no obvious symptoms of lead poisoning.** Be sure to ask your child's doctor to test!

## Kids can be exposed to lead if:

- They chew or eat lead paint chips
- They breathe in dust from lead paint or touch it and put their hands in their mouths
- Lead is tracked into the home through dirt on shoes and clothing
- Eat food stored in dishes glazed with lead
- Put soil in their mouths that has lead dust from lead paint or leaded gas in it
- They interact with old or imported toys that have lead
- They eat candy or herbs that have been found to have lead
- They are around a caregiver who is regularly exposed to lead at work

Visit [illinoisAAP.org/lead/](http://illinoisAAP.org/lead/) to learn more!



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# You Can't See Lead, But You Can Detect It!

## What happens if my child has higher levels of lead in their blood?

That's when we'll need to take action to limit their risk!

## Here are the steps you can take:

- 1 Make sure you get your child's lab work completed!**  
There are additional blood tests your doctor will want to perform to make a treatment plan – be sure to follow up.
- 2 Once their second test is confirmed, you will be assigned a nurse case manager to help with detection and treatment!** Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) will work with you to remove lead from your home to keep your children safe.
- 3 Update your cleaning habits by incorporating new tasks like:**
  - Wiping down all window wells, windowsills, and areas around windows with a mixture of dishwasher detergent and clean warm water and then rinse with clean water.
  - Spray your floors with the same soap mixture, then sweep, and then mop with the same mixture. Rinse with warm water.
  - Clean all bed clothes, sheets, and pillowcases regularly.
  - Take off all shoes before entering the home.
  - Clean all toys regularly, especially if they've touched the floor.
  - Clean all dishes that have touched the floor before using them again.



## What can we do to stop lead poisoning?

Ask your child's doctor to test their lead levels!

- ⚠ Many private insurance policies cover the cost** of testing for lead in the blood. The cost of blood lead testing for children enrolled in Medicaid is covered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services.
- ⚠ Lead testing is required** for enrollment in day care and school.

**The good news** is you can ask your doctor to test your child's lead levels on their next visit.

## Help keep your child safe by:

Asking your doctor to test your child's lead levels! Getting their lab work done! Connect with the CDPH about a process to remove lead from your home

- ⚠ Important:** If your child has a high lead level, a nurse case manager from CDPH will contact you to provide counseling and help.

**Questions?**  
**Call (312) 747-LEAD**  
(312) 747-5323

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