

Health Care Provider Newsletter

A Collaboration Between the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the City of Berkeley Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Program

*“There is no safe level of lead for children...”
The American Academy of Pediatrics, October 2007*

CDC REDEFINES LEAD EXPOSURE in CHILDREN

For the first time in 20 years, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its recommendations on children’s blood lead levels. In light of the multitude of studies unequivocally demonstrating adverse effects at lower blood lead levels, the previous guidelines (of 10 µg/dL) have given parents and physicians a false sense of security that children have been safe from harm. **The new “reference level” for lead exposure is 5 µg/dL.** This new level encourages parents, doctors, public health, and housing officials to take action earlier to prevent and reduce future exposures. The new reference level is based on population-based-blood-lead surveys and will be updated by the CDC every four years based on the most recent surveys.

Historically, the CDC has lowered the threshold for elevated lead levels six times in the past 40 years, in response to scientific evidence of harm at lower blood lead levels:

2012	Elevated blood lead level: ≥ 5 µg/dL (Effective July 2012)
1991	≥ 10 µg/dL
1985	≥ 25 µg/dL
1978	≥ 30 µg/dL
1971	≥ 40 µg/dL
Prior to 1970	≥ 60 µg/dL

What Is the Impact of the New Reference Value?

It is anticipated that as the reference value for blood lead is lowered to 5 µg/dL, the number of children newly defined as lead exposed in the United States will increase from approximately 250,000 to 400,000. It is anticipated that in Alameda County, that number will increase from approximately 100 to 400 children per year (based on 2010 data).

What Does This Mean for You as a Provider?

- Expect to see more children with blood lead levels exceeding the reference value (≥ 5 µg/dL), and that require your monitoring and follow up services
- **Follow-Up Testing:** the California State Lead Branch recommends:
 - Re-test blood lead levels in the 5-9 µg/dL range within **6 months**.
 - Re-test blood lead levels ≥ 10 µg/dL within **1-3 months**
- The Alameda County and City of Berkeley Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs have been proactively providing services and information to families of children with lead levels below 10 µg/dL for a number of years, and we will continue to do so as resources allow. Those services may include:
 - home and/or telephone consultations for lead education,
 - visual assessment and/or testing of the home environment for lead sources,
 - technical assistance to property owners

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Children at risk for lead exposure should be screened for lead at 12 and 24 months.

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CDC Redefines Lead Exposure in Children cont.

- Please continue to provide anticipatory guidance, screen children at risk of lead exposure at 12 and 24 months, retest elevated BLLs at appropriate intervals, and refer all BLLs $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ for follow-up services.
- For more information, call or visit the website's medical provider portal:
<http://www.aclppp.org/medicalproviders/medicalproviders.htm>

Read the American Academy of Pediatrics press statement: <http://bit.ly/Nd0tIL>

Read the complete CDC recommendations document (May 2012):

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/ACCLPP/CDC_Response_Lead_Exposure_Recs.pdf



Capillary Blood Lead Testing

A number of providers are using the in-office Lead Care-II for capillary blood lead screening. A couple of points to remember:

- If a child has an elevated **capillary** lead test, all the subsequent tests must be **venous** draws
- Electronically report/download the results of all capillary tests to the State Lead Branch within the required time
- The Alameda County and City of Berkeley Lead Programs can provide you and your staff with technical assistance.



Prevent Lead Poisoning From Soil & Gardens



Learn How To:

- Protect young children from bare soil
- Reduce lead exposure in a vegetable garden
- Get a Free In-home/garden lead consultation
(for owners of pre-1978 homes in Alameda Berkeley, Emeryville & Oakland)

Get more safe gardening tips at:
www.aclppp.org/leadpoisoning/gardening.htm

Visit the following websites for information on recalled products:

- www.recalls.gov
- www.cpsc.gov
- Check independently tested toys at www.healthytoys.org
- Check lists of lead-safe candies at www.leadinmexicancandy.com



Ask your clients to stay connected to consumer product updates.



Alameda County Healthy Homes Project



The Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program continues administering a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to improve the lives of asthmatic children in Alameda County. The Project provides families with multi-hazard housing assessments, in-home education, and a Healthy Homes Community Specialist determines what, if any, home repairs are needed to reduce asthma triggers. The Healthy Homes Specialist assists the occupants by identifying resources to get the repairs completed. By addressing the seven principles of Healthy Homes through housing interventions,



Project participants typically exhibit a reduction in asthma symptoms and home injuries.

For more information and how to refer patients, please contact the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at www.aclppp.org or 510-567-8280.

Alameda County Lead Program Website Recently Updated

The Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program has revamped the medical provider portal of the website (www.aclppp.org/medicalproviders). It includes a quick reference guide, referral forms, management guidelines, patient health educational materials, Alameda County lead data, journal articles, links to free CME, local Alameda County medical provider testimonials, and more. Please visit and let us know what you think.

The medical provider portal of the website can also be accessed by smart phones with a Quick Response (QR) code application by scanning the symbol below:



Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

2000 Embarcadero, Suite 300

Oakland, CA 94606

510-567-8280

WWW.ACLPPP.ORG



Alameda County Community Development Agency

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

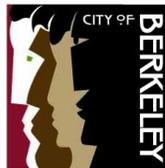
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Department of Health, Housing & Community Services
Public Health Division



The Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and City of Berkeley Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention provide services to Alameda County and Berkeley residents as they relate to reducing lead exposure in children. Services range from nursing case management for children with blood lead levels above 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ (14.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ for Berkeley) to health education for children with levels between 5-9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

We also provide resources to property owners on lead-safe practices, such as free lead-safe painting and remodeling classes, In-Home Consultation and garden soil testing kits, access to HEPA-Vacuums and more! For more information about our case management services and programs, or to refer a client to our services, please feel free to contact us at the information listed above.