

# Childhood Lead Newsletter

June 2022

This is the first in a series of newsletters planned to introduce pediatric and family medical providers to the newly established Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

We welcome feedback and look forward to working with you to ensure that children have access to screening for lead exposures and treatment for elevated blood lead.

This initial issue contains an introduction to the program including blood lead testing and updated blood lead reference values, program activities, and resources.



## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The Idaho Division of Public Health's Environmental Health Program (EHP) has developed a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) using federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This Program seeks to reduce childhood lead exposure through primary and secondary prevention strategies.

Over the next five years, CLPPP will work closely with healthcare professionals to ensure a comprehensive system of identification, referral, follow-up, and evaluation is in place for children exposed to lead. Primary and secondary lead prevention strategies and blood lead screening tests will reduce and prevent environmental lead hazards and connect lead-exposed children to medical, environmental, and social services to improve health outcomes.

### 1. Update on FDA Recall for Magellan Diagnostics, Inc's LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra Blood Lead Test

On July 6, 2021, the FDA issued a recall for Magellan Diagnostics, Inc's LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra blood lead tests because of the risk of providing false low lead results. Children who were tested utilizing these tests from October 27, 2020- July 6, 2021 and received a result below the CDC's blood lead reference value of **3.5 µg/dL**, should be retested to confirm their blood lead levels.

Following the recall, Idaho Medicaid observed a significant decline in blood lead level testing from July 2021-September 2021. Medical providers were encouraged to continue testing blood lead levels utilizing



a venous or capillary blood sample analyzed with higher complexity testing methods. For more information about this recall, please visit: [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Update](#).

On February 16, 2022, Magellan resumed manufacturing and distributing its LeadCare II test kits. Magellan identified the paperboard material used to package Treatment Reagent tubes as the contaminant source and has found a suitable replacement. It is now safe to continue using the LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra Blood Lead Tests.

## **2. Center of Disease Control (CDC) Lowers Blood Lead Reference Level to 3.5 µg/dL**

On October 28, 2021, the CDC lowered the blood lead reference level (BLRV) from **5.0 µg/dL to 3.5 µg/dL** to identify children with blood lead levels higher than most children's levels. Per the CDC, "The value is based on the 97.5th percentile of the blood lead distribution in U.S. children ages 1-5 years." Currently, in Idaho, the mandated reportable elevated blood lead in children under 18 years of age is **5.0 µg/dL** (Idaho Reportable Diseases 16.02.10-Rules Regulations).

By voluntarily following the CDC's updated BLRV, we can intervene, identify potential lead exposures, and refer children to recommended services earlier than if following **5.0 µg/dL** BLRV. EHP recommends following up with children who have levels of **3.5 µg/dL** and above including education and outreach and referral for recommended services.

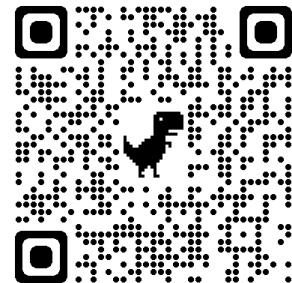


## **3. Lead Safety Recreation Factsheets and Videos**

EHP has recently developed lead safety recreation factsheets and videos on topics that include:

- Lead at Indoor Ranges
- Lead at Outdoor Ranges
- Lead from Bullet Reloading
- Lead at Shooting Ranges
- Lead in Wild Game Meat
- Lead from Fishing
- Lead in Antiques
- Lead and Cultural Consumer Items

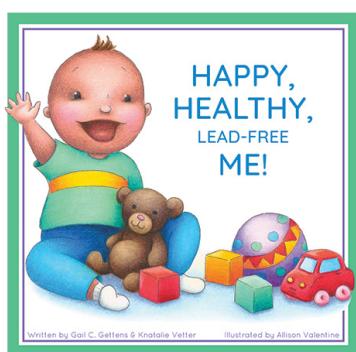
The factsheets and videos can be accessed at EHP's website: [healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/environmental-health/lead](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/environmental-health/lead).



If you would like to order free printed brochures, please visit: [healthtools.dhw.idaho.gov](http://healthtools.dhw.idaho.gov).

#### **4. Free Children's Book about Lead**

'Happy, Healthy, Lead-Free Me!' Children's book has engaging illustrations and rhyming text to capture a toddler's attention while at the same time educating parents about lead, the health effects, and the importance of pediatric lead level testing. This book was developed by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services with clinical support from the New Hampshire Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics. This book



Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is offering free 'Happy, Healthy, Lead-Free Me!' books to providers to distribute to their patients at no charge. Books are in English and Spanish and can be ordered at [healthtools.dhw.idaho.gov](http://healthtools.dhw.idaho.gov).

#### **5. Idaho Medicaid Lead Screening Advisory Committee**

The CLPPP is working closely with the Idaho Medicaid Lead Screening Advisory Committee to develop Idaho's first stateside comprehensive blood lead screening plan that includes clear blood lead testing guidance for pediatric and family care providers. Guidance for providers will include an emphasis on testing children ages one through six years of age.

The CLPPP is partnering with the Medicaid Lead Screening Advisory Committee, Idaho Public Health Districts, and other professionals to develop training, guidance documents, and resources to help identify and reduce lead exposures, increase blood lead testing, and reduce elevated blood lead levels.

If you are interested in Idaho Medicaid Lead Screening Committee or the CLPPP, and would like to be added to a distribution list to receive updates on activities or have any questions or suggestions for the CLPPP, please contact Kelly Berg.

**Thank you for your continued support to protect Idaho's children.**

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