



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Livingston County Department of Public Health offers Free Lead Testing for Toys “Get the Lead Out”, January 14, 10am-2pm.

HOWELL, Michigan. January 9, 2008 (Livingston County Department of Public Health) - The Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) in cooperation with WHMI 93.5 FM, has organized a lead testing event, “Get the Lead Out”, for the purpose of testing children’s toys for possible lead hazards and to provide families with information about lead exposure prevention. The event will take place at the LCDPH, 2300 East Grand River Avenue, located at the corner of Grand River Ave and Chilson Road in Howell, MI. The event begins at 10:00 am and concludes at 2:00 pm. Participants are asked to limit the number of items to be tested to four per family.

Although lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust in homes are still the most common sources of lead exposure for children, lead may also be found in other items, including toys. Imported toys, as well as antique toys, put children at possible risk for lead exposure. During this event, a special hand-held analyzer, provided by Innov-X Systems, will be used to screen toys, jewelry and trinkets for lead contamination. Results will be provided instantly and screening can be done through toy packaging.

Regardless of toy screening results, blood lead testing is the best way to determine if a child has been exposed to a dangerous amount of lead. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended a virtually universal screening of children 12-72 months of age. Child health-care providers should use a blood lead test to screen children at ages one and two years and children 36-72 months of age who have not previously been screened if they meet certain high-risk criteria. It is important for

children with an elevated blood lead level to be identified early so interventions can be implemented to decrease the risk of future health and developmental problems.

Creating a lead-safe environment for families is key to preventing further lead contamination. The LCDPH will be providing an extensive educational resource area during the event to help inform families on lead hazards and related human health issues. Additional LCDPH services will also be on display and professional staff will be available to answer questions.

For more lead information, contact the Livingston County Department of Public Health at (517) 546-9858, www.lchd.org, or the State of Michigan Lead Program at 1-517-335-9390, www.michigan.gov/leadsafe.

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