



## LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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### **Livingston County Observes National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week October 23–29, 2011**

Nearly a quarter of a million children living in the United States have blood lead levels high enough to cause significant damage to their health, estimates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), based on data from a 2003–2004 national survey. Major sources of lead exposure among U.S. children are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in deteriorating buildings.

Despite the continued presence of lead in the environment, lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Health effects related to lead exposure in children in most cases is due to lead dust in the home caused by deteriorating paint or renovation projects.

To increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention, the Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) along with CDC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is participating in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) October 23–29th.

This year's NLPPW theme, "Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future," underscores the importance of testing your home, testing your child, and learning how to prevent lead poisoning's serious health effects.

- LCDPH will be kicking off Lead Poisoning Prevention Week by participating in the Legend of Sleepy Howell on October 22nd. We encourage families to stop by our display to get information on how to protect their families from lead exposure.
- We will continue to have information available in our main lobby throughout the month of October. LCDPH is located in the Livingston County East Complex, 2300 E. Grand River in Howell at the Southwest corner of Grand River and Chilson Roads.

Parents can reduce a child's exposure to lead in many ways. Here are some simple things you can do to help protect your family:

1. If you are renovating a home built prior to 1978, get information on how to avoid lead exposure during this process.
2. If you live in a home built prior to 1978 that has paint in poor condition (cracking, peeling, chalking), get information on how to reduce potential lead exposure.
3. Talk to your doctor about blood lead testing for children under six years of age.
4. Practice healthy habits such as hand washing and good nutrition.

For more information, contact LCDPH @ 517-546-9850 or the Michigan Department of Community Health's website at [www.michigan.gov/leadsafe](http://www.michigan.gov/leadsafe).

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