



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, lead poisoning is one of the leading environmental health hazards facing children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, approximately 240,000 children in the United States under the age of 6 have harmful levels of lead in their blood; and

WHEREAS, lead poisoning may cause serious, long-term harm to children, including reduced intelligence and attention span, behavior problems, learning disabilities, and impaired growth; and

WHEREAS, children from low-income families are significantly more likely to be poisoned by lead than are children from high-income families; and

WHEREAS, children may be poisoned by lead in water, soil, housing, or consumable products; and

WHEREAS, children most often are poisoned in their homes through exposure to lead particles when lead-based paint deteriorates or is disturbed during home renovation and repainting; and

WHEREAS, almost 330,000 homes in Idaho were built prior to 1978 (the year lead was banned from paint); and

WHEREAS, lead poisoning crosses all barriers of race, income, and geography; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Healthy Homes Network seeks to bring together stakeholders, private and public, local and statewide, to develop and implement strategies to protect children and their families from dangerous housing-related health and safety hazards:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim the week of October 18-24, 2009 to be

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

in Idaho, and I call upon citizens, organizations, and governments throughout Idaho to observe Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at Boise, Idaho, on this 15th day of October in the year of our Lord two-thousand and nine and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-fourth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twentieth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER -- Governor
RICHARD M. ARMSTRONG -- Director

LESLIE M. CLEMENT - Administrator
DIVISION OF MEDICAID
Post Office Box 83720
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RE: Blood Lead Screening

Dear Medicaid Provider:

The CDC has declared October 18th-24th, 2009 to be National Lead Awareness Week and we are asking for your continuing help with lead screening for Medicaid eligible children.

- Elevated blood lead levels can result in decreased IQ, behavioral problems, and academic problems for the children you care for.
- Children who live in housing built before 1960 have a higher risk of lead poisoning, especially when remodeling or renovation is happening.
- Children living near a smelter or battery plant, or whose parents are exposed to lead at the workplace have a higher risk of lead poisoning.
- Medicaid providers are required to screen children for lead exposure at 12 and 24 months of age, in accordance with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control.
- Children between 24 months and 21 years of age should receive a blood lead level test if there is no record of a previous test.

Medicaid reimburses providers for blood lead level testing through CPT 83655. A Healthy Connections referral is not required to provide this service, which can be accomplished with a simple finger prick test through most labs.

We ask that you continue to provide screening for blood lead as a component of an infant's or child's wellness exam. For more information on the Idaho Medicaid Lead Screening program you may access the web address www.medunit.idaho.gov. Thank you for your participation in the Idaho Medicaid Program.

Sincerely,

Mark Turner, M.D.
Medicaid Medical Director

Enclosures

Lead Poisoning Prevention and Detection

The CDC has developed the following short risk questionnaire to help screen for lead exposure.

Does your child:

1. Live in or regularly visit a house with peeling or chipping paint built before 1960? This could include a day care center, preschool, the home of a babysitter or a relative, etc.
2. Live in or regularly visit a house built before 1960 with recent, ongoing, or planned renovation or remodeling?
3. Have a brother or sister, housemate, or playmate being monitored or treated for lead poisoning (that is, blood lead greater than or equal to 15 ug/dL)?
4. Live with an adult whose job or hobby involves exposure to lead?
5. Live near a lead smelter, battery recycling plant, or other industry likely to release lead?

On the basis of responses to questions like these, children can be categorized as low or high risk for high-dose lead exposure. If the answers to all questions are negative, the child is at low risk for high-dose lead exposure and should be blood lead tested at 12 months and again at 24 months (since blood lead levels often peak after 12 months of age).

If the answer to any question is positive, the child is potentially at high risk for high-dose lead exposure, and the child should receive a blood test right away. For children previously at low risk, any history suggesting that exposure to lead has increased should be followed up with a blood lead test. Alternative or additional questions should be asked, based on local conditions.

Facts about Lead

Exposure to lead causes irreversible brain damage and may be lethal. Effects include:

- Decrease in IQ
- Behavior problems
- Difficulty with verbal processing
- Diminished attention span
- Decrease in school performance
- Negative social and emotional behaviors
- Motor development
- Difficulty with brain organization

There is no safe blood lead level in children.

- The younger the person, the greater the risk and impact because the nervous system is still being developed.

How is lead absorbed in the body?

- Children absorb lead through respiration and ingestion.
- Cutaneous exposure is insignificant.

How long does lead remain in the body with potential impact?

- Half life of lead in the blood is 35 days.
- Half life of lead in the brain is 2 years.
- Half life of lead in the bone is decades.

Prenatal exposure can occur.

- Young women who were lead poisoned as youngsters can pass lead onto their unborn fetus.
- Lead can be passed through breast milk.
- Lead crosses the placenta beginning immediately.

Prenatal lead exposure impact on the developing fetus (not all inclusive):

- Microcephaly
- Brain hemorrhages
- Prematurity and abruptio placenta
- Lack of prenatal care
- Associated with SGA (small for gestational age)

A blood lead test can be ordered during the prenatal period. If maternal blood is positive, cord blood testing at birth is warranted.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

C.L. 'Butch' Otter – Governor
RICHARD M. ARMSTRONG – Director

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2009

Tom Shanahan
(208) 334-0668

Protect Your Children: National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 18-24

Lead poisoning is a preventable environmental disease which affects an estimated 250,000 children in the United States. Children with lead poisoning may suffer from hyperactivity, aggressive behavior, learning disabilities, lowered IQ, speech delay and hearing impairment.

Children six years old and younger are at most risk for lead poisoning. To prevent exposure, it's important that lead sources are identified and removed before children begin crawling. The primary source for lead poisoning is from lead-based paint used in homes built before 1978. Paint that is intact does not usually present a problem, but paint that is chipping, peeling or creating levels of lead dust can be absorbed by children and result in possible health hazards. Other sources of lead include:

- **Drinking water** – older homes (especially those built before 1930) may have lead plumbing pipes or lead solder. If you think your home plumbing has lead, use only cold water for drinking and cooking and run the water for 30 seconds before drinking. You can also take water samples to a local lab for a lead analysis.
- **Soil** – Outdoor play areas may be contaminated by flaking paint or airborne lead particles. Make sure children wash their hands before they come inside.
- **Occupations and Hobbies** – some jobs may leave lead dust on clothing such as construction, demolition, painting, mining, and working with batteries or in a radiator repair shop. Some hobbies use lead such as making pottery, stained glass, sinkers, bullets, or refinishing furniture. If you work with lead, change your clothes before going home. Wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking.
- **Other sources**—pottery may be glazed with lead; folk remedies such as “greta” and “azarcon” contain lead; or some imported items may have lead in them such as candies, toys, toy jewelry, and cosmetics. Check the Consumer Product Safety Commission for recall updates and remove any of those items from your child.

The good news is that lead poisoning is entirely preventable. The key is stopping children from coming into contact with lead and treating children who have been poisoned by lead. If you suspect your child may be exposed to any of sources of lead, talk to your doctor about a blood lead test. The state's Medicaid program and most health insurance plans cover lead testing. For more information on lead, please call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD or visit www.epa.gov/lead. For a list of lead inspectors or risk assessors in Idaho, please contact the Idaho Indoor Environment Program at 1-800-445-8647.

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**Children enrolled in Idaho Medicaid as of October 2009
who have had a Medicaid-reimbursed blood lead level test at any time**

Region 1 Coeur d'Alene

Age	Total Participants	Participants with a Lead Screen	Percent
Total	6,552	1433	21.9%

Region 5 Twin Falls

Age	Total Participants	Participants with a Lead Screen	Percent
Total	9,148	519	5.7%

Region 2 Lewiston/Moscow

Age	Total Participants	Participants with a Lead Screen	Percent
Total	2,635	270	10.2%

Region 6 Pocatello

Age	Total Participants	Participants with a Lead Screen	Percent
Total	6,579	822	12.5%

Region 3 Caldwell/Nampa

Age	Total Participants	Participants with a Lead Screen	Percent
Total	13,925	1517	10.9%

Region 7 Idaho Falls

Age	Total Participants	Participants with a Lead Screen	Percent
Total	8,224	1716	20.9%

Region 4 Boise

Age	Total Participants	Participants with a Lead Screen	Percent
Total	11,814	953	8.1%

Overall

Age	Total Participants	Participants with a Lead Screen	Percent
0	10,731	35	0.3%
1	10,383	1,722	16.6%
2	9,878	1,656	16.8%
3	9,187	1,065	11.6%
4	8,828	1,216	13.8%
5	8,542	1,073	12.6%
6	7,977	858	10.8%
0-6	65,526	7,625	11.6%

State of Idaho
 Department of Health and Welfare
 Division of Medicaid
 Lead Tests on Dates of Service
 01/01/2008 to 12/31/2008

Run Date: 10/19/2009
 Report Number: HWMF_2105_Lead_Testing_per_County

	All Ages	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	All 0-6
ADA	419	17	112	47	26	98	24	7	331
ADAMS	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
ASOTIN, WASHINGTON	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
BANNOCK	131	15	46	15	15	28	6	2	127
BEAR LAKE	7	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	7
BEAVERHEAD, MONTANA	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
BENEWAH	33	1	12	5	6	7	2	0	33
BINGHAM	88	6	28	13	10	18	7	1	83
BLAINE	38	1	19	9	0	4	3	2	38
BOISE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BONNER	38	2	12	4	5	11	1	0	35
BONNEVILLE	502	12	277	99	45	37	12	3	485
BOUNDARY	11	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	8
BUTTE	4	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	4
CANYON	591	47	387	51	25	32	18	7	567
CARIBOU	22	1	1	1	7	11	1	0	22
CASSIA	38	0	17	6	2	7	2	1	35
CLARK	5	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	5
CLEARWATER	5	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	5
ELKO, NEVADA	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
ELMORE	66	1	7	10	12	20	10	1	61
FRANKLIN	61	0	10	9	17	13	8	1	58
FREMONT	61	1	23	11	8	4	3	2	52
GEM	19	5	5	2	2	1	2	0	17
GOODING	28	6	4	8	1	2	0	1	22
IDAHO	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
JEFFERSON	105	3	39	27	14	10	6	0	99
JEROME	23	4	3	7	2	3	1	0	20
KOOTENAI	653	25	410	132	26	28	15	7	643
LATAH	28	6	14	3	3	2	0	0	28
LEMHI	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
LEWIS	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4
LINCOLN	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
MADISON	147	0	91	22	5	20	2	2	142
MALHEUR, OREGON	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
MINIDOKA	25	0	7	5	2	2	4	1	21
NEZ PERCE	50	33	11	4	0	0	0	0	48
ONEIDA	15	0	0	0	3	9	2	0	14
Out Of State	80	5	36	9	6	9	1	0	66
OWHYEE	25	2	13	3	2	4	1	0	25
PAYETTE	31	3	12	8	2	3	0	1	29
POWER	19	4	5	0	2	3	2	1	17
SHOSHONE	37	1	20	8	1	4	0	0	34
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
TETON	24	1	11	3	3	4	1	0	23
TWIN FALLS	111	7	18	9	10	10	4	5	63
VALLEY	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON	17	2	7	6	1	1	0	0	17
Total	3,586	215	1,677	544	269	416	141	46	3,308

From: Boyle, Dori - Medicaid [BoyleD@dhw.idaho.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 12:27 PM
To: Denna Grangaard
Cc: Wimmer, Matt - Medicaid
Subject: Medicaid lead testing information-statistic numbers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Attachments: Children with lead screens ever 10-09.xls; Lead tests by County CY 2008.xls; Lead screening by county 2009 as of 6-29-10.xls

Denna,
Here is the information to provide to the group on the conference call pertaining to lead testing for Medicaid eligible participants.

*Dori Boyle, Medical Program Specialist
Medicaid
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