THE IMPORTANCE OF LEAD SCREENINGS

WHY TEST YOUR CHILD FOR LEAD

- Children can be exposed to lead in and around the home and the places they play.
- Lead can be found in older homes, soil, toys, jewelry, and even candies and food.
- Lead is more easily absorbed by children than adults.
- Unresolved lead exposures can cause developmental delays and other health issues.
- Your child may not seem sick despite potentially being exposed to lead.

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN CHILDREN

- Irritability
- Loss of appetite
- Paleness
- Stomach aches
- Constipation
- Nausea and vomiting

YOUR CHILD MAY NOT HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS AT ALL!

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN ADULTS

- Headache
- Memory loss
- Mood disorders
- Pain, numbness or tingling in arms and legs
- Muscle weakness
- Stomach pain

NO LEVEL OF LEAD IN THE BODY IS CONSIDERED SAFE

HOW LEAD AFFECTS THE BODY

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Difficulty sleeping, irritability, poor concentration, fatigue, memory loss, personality changes, headaches, delirium

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

High blood pressure, anemia, heart disease

SKELETOMUSCULAR SYSTEM

Tremors, pain, loss of coordination, weakness, joint pain, muscle pain, decreased skeletal growth

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation

URINARY SYSTEM

Kidney damage

REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

Decreased libido (sex drive), abnormal menstrual cycle, fertility issues, pregnancy complications including birth defects and miscarriage

TESTING FOR LEAD EXPOSURE

- A simple blood test can detect abnormal levels of lead if you've been exposed.
- Your physician will explain the test results.
- Lead exposures can be reduced by removing or fixing the source. If your lead levels are too high, you may need medication or even hospitalization.

LONG BEACH HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

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