



## NEWS RELEASE

### Public Health

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## County working to eliminate childhood lead poisoning



To increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention, the Department of Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPP), is participating in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) October 22-28. The program educates families and community members about ways to prevent lead poisoning and the importance of testing children for lead. The theme for this year is, "Healthy homes, food, and play areas protect children from lead."

"Lead poisoning can seriously affect a child's brain and nervous system, causing learning and behavioral problems," stated Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, County Health Officer. "A blood lead test is the only way to identify lead poisoning in children, that's why it's important for parents to ask their child's doctor about lead testing,"

In California, children can be exposed to lead by ingesting lead-contaminated dust, paint chips from deteriorating lead-based paint, and lead-contaminated soil, especially in homes built prior to 1978. Other sources of lead poisoning include lead dust brought home on parents' work clothes, certain imported ceramic pottery, toys, jewelry, traditional home remedies, and imported spices, candies, and other food products. Additionally, activities that involve lead products such as soldering, making stained glass, and handling bullets or fishing sinkers can put children at risk.

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. **Get your Home Tested.** Before you buy an older home, ask for a lead inspection. To schedule a free lead inspection call 909-383-3052. If the inspector identifies lead-based paint hazards you will be provided with abatement options and available resources for lead hazard control services.
2. **Get your Child Tested.** Even if your young children seem healthy, ask your doctor to test them for lead.
3. **Get the Facts!** Parents and caregivers of young children are invited to call the CLPP Program at 909-383-3022 or visit our webpage at [www.sbcounty.gov/dph](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph). Parents can also get more information and ways to protect their children from this silent and serious health condition by visiting [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb).

The Lead Poisoning Prevention campaign supports the Countywide Vision for an overall vibrant County, "all leading to a healthy population with a high quality of life." Be sure to look out for our bus card displays inside the local Omni Trans buses.