

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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Health Commissioner

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Re: Lead Poisoning in Children: NEW Guidelines for Prevention, Screening and Medical Management

Dear Clinical Partners:

Last year the CDC's Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACCLPP) issued a report, [*Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention*](#), which acknowledged the growing body of research that shows long term and irreversible detrimental cognitive and behavioral effects of even mildly elevated blood lead levels in young children. As a result, ACCLPP issued a renewed call for prevention of lead poisoning and recommended a reference level of 5µg/dL to identify children and environments associated with lead-exposure hazards.

In response, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health has developed [updated guidelines](#) for clinicians on the prevention, screening and medical management of children with elevated blood lead levels. We have also created an [easy-to-read handout](#) for clinicians to share with their patients.

Children in Philadelphia are at significant risk of lead poisoning due mainly to the condition and age of Philadelphia's housing. We hope you will join us in working to eliminate lead poisoning of Philadelphia's children by counseling families on how to reduce the risk of lead exposure.

Please feel free to contact the Philadelphia Department of Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 215-685-2788 for more information. Additional information, including materials for families with young children at risk of lead poisoning, is available at <http://www.phila.gov/health/ChildhoodLead>.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Schwarz, MD, MPH
Deputy Mayor for Health & Opportunity
Health Commissioner