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**For Immediate Release:**

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**A little lead can cause BIG problems**

*National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is Oct. 22-28*

The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA) and Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department (BLDHD) are promoting National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) and highlighting the importance of lead poisoning prevention —especially in children..

A blood test is the best way to determine if a child has been exposed to lead. The amount of lead in blood is referred to as a blood lead level, which is measured in micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ). Most children with lead in their blood have no obvious symptoms. Talk to your child’s healthcare provider about getting a [blood lead test](#).

The 2023 NLPPW theme is “Together, we can prevent lead exposure!” and by focusing on these three actions we can prevent lead poisoning:

1. Get the Facts
2. Get Your Home Tested
3. Get Your Child Tested

“Lead can be found outside and inside the house, but good news, lead poisoning is 100% preventable,” said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director. “The best way to protect yourself and your family is to learn the facts, test your house if built before 1978, and follow the lead testing guidelines for children and pregnancy.”

Children enrolled in Medicaid, living in a house built before 1978, among other risk factors should be tested routinely at 12 and 24 months of age, or later up to age 6 years if they have not been tested before.

Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. There is no safe blood lead level in children. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect learning, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. While the effects of lead exposure may be permanent, if caught early there are things parents can do to prevent further exposure and reduce damage to their child’s health.

For more information:

- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)

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Proud member of the [Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance](#): 7 local health departments advocating for public health.