

LEAD POISON TESTING & PREVENTION

The Lead Poison Testing & Prevention Programs

Lead poisons people especially children. If lead gets into a child's body, it could cause a lower IQ, kidney damage, hearing loss, growth problems, anemia or behavior problems. Lead can be found in paint, dust, soil and water. The most common cause is lead-based paint. If floors have dust from old painted walls, or paint chips, a baby could breathe in lead dust, or suck on lead-dusted hands or toys. Some toddlers eat paint chips or chew on lead-painted window sills and stair rails.

The Clinton County Health Department provides the public with education, prevention, lead testing clinics, and investigation of lead incidents.

What are the Symptoms of Lead Poisoning in Children?

They can include fatigue, crankiness and stomachaches. But usually there are no signs. A blood lead test is the only sure way to tell.

Lead Poisoning Prevention

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program is one way to educate the community about lead poisoning prevention. Our staff visits each home in a neighborhood to conduct short health and safety surveys. Based on the needs of the home, the program provides referrals and some safety products.

Who Should Have a Lead Test?

Children and pregnant women need to be screened for lead levels and get risk reduction info.

All children six months to six years should be screened regularly. Children should be tested by their first birthday and again when they're two. Preschool and child care programs will be looking for proof that the child has been tested.

How is a Lead Test Done?

A small amount of blood is taken from a finger prick or vein and tested for lead. See our lead testing clinics listing, to schedule a test for your child.

What if the Blood Test Shows a Problem?

For some children simple changes in diet and more frequent hand washing are all that is needed. Other children, with very high blood lead levels, may need drugs that help the body get rid of the lead. Also, the source of the lead will have to be found and the problem corrected.

A Clinton County Health Department environmental official will perform field investigations at sites where individuals have been identified with lead poisoning. They will notify property owners of necessary steps to abate lead hazards and provide technical advice. They will collect samples and interpret results for soil, paint, dust and other substances.

Contact Us

To receive more information about lead poisoning concerns, prevention or our lead testing clinic, call or visit us at:

Clinton County Health Department
Health Services Unit
133 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
Tel: (518) 565-4848

Lead Testing Clinics are held once every month at 32 Court Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. Walk-ins are welcome:

2011 Lead Testing Clinics 9 to 10 AM		
1/20/2011	5/19/2011	9/15/2011
2/17/2011	6/16/2011	10/20/2011
3/17/2011	7/21/2011	11/17/2011
4/21/2011	8/18/2011	12/15/2011