

Get the LEAD Out

A Bay Area Coalition of Lead Poisoning Prevention Leaders

Fiscal Sponsor: Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The Get the Lead Out Coalition firmly believes that maintaining the current Center for Disease Control level of concern for elevated blood lead at 10 micrograms per deciliter takes a serious health and societal toll.

Research shows there is no safe level of lead in the body, and intervening at lower levels provides an opportunity to reduce environmental exposures before further, more serious poisoning occurs. Presently, hundreds of thousands of children have been exposed to lead but don't meet the current CDC "level of concern" that funds public health action (10 micrograms per deciliter), and therefore are not eligible for services to identify and manage the source of their lead poisoning.

Consequently, a large pool of children with learning disabilities is being created who will exhibit the most serious consequences of their chronic exposure in later life. Already strapped public school systems and other public agencies will bear the financial burden for these children, while the families will suffer long term emotional turmoil. Much of this can be prevented.

Coalition Recommendations: What You Can Do:

1. All: Get Informed: visit The Get The Lead Out Coalition website www.getleadout.org
2. Parents:
 - a. Raise the issue of lead poisoning with your doctors, schools, building officials, churches, political representatives, environmental groups, etc.
 - b. Assess your home environment for potential lead hazards.
 - c. Sign a letter of support to assist the Coalition in rallying the CDC to lower the blood lead level of concern that funds public health action from 10, down to 2 micrograms per deciliter.
3. Medical Providers:
 - a. Acknowledge the scientific consensus which supports the serious and lasting public health impact of blood lead levels below the CDC's current "level of concern" (10 mcg/dL).
 - b. Conduct lead risk assessments on children and pregnant women, to determine their need for blood lead testing.
 - c. Raise the issue of lead poisoning at professional meetings, conferences.
 - d. Sign a letter of support to assist the Coalition in rallying the CDC to lower the blood lead level of concern that triggers public health action from 10, down to 2 micrograms per deciliter.

We Call on Our Nation's Leaders to Do More to Protect Public Health from Lingering Dangers of Lead.

We affirm that lead poisoning is a serious public health threat, particularly to children and pregnant women and their fetuses, and that much of the threat posed by exposure to lead can be prevented by lowering the CDC level of concern that funds public health actions from the current level of 10 micrograms per deciliter, down to 2 micrograms per deciliter.

Together we can ensure that our children grow up in healthy, safe environments!

Coalition members include representatives from:

Alameda County ▪ City of Berkeley ▪ City and County of San Francisco ▪ Contra Costa County ▪ Marin County ▪ Monterey County
Santa Clara County ▪ Santa Cruz County ▪ San Joaquin County ▪ San Mateo County ▪ Solano County ▪ Sonoma County
Association of Environmental Contractors ▪ Center for Environmental Health

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