



Insider News

Lead and Healthy Homes
Division Newsletter
August 2021



New Maternal & Child Health Lead Toolkit Available

Earlier this year the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) released a new resource, its “MCH Lead Toolkit”. The toolkit was developed with a goal toward preventing and mitigating lead poisoning for infants, children, pregnant people and families. This interactive, action-oriented toolkit is the final product of a three-year grant AMCHP received from the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau to lead a national Maternal and Child Environmental Health Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (MCEH CoIIN). The MCH Lead Toolkit shares best practices and lessons learned from the MCEH CoIIN, its national partners and state teams. It aims to help public health professionals access resources, strategies, tools

and ideas they can replicate or adapt in their states, jurisdictions and communities.

The MCH Lead Toolkit features:

- Easy navigation to meet your needs – you choose how you go through the toolkit and which sections you use
- Interactive action center organized by focus areas for systems change (Family Engagement and Partnership, Clinical Settings and more!)
- Case studies from nine state teams that tested innovative practices and quality improvement methods
- Tip sheets and resources
- Searchable resource index

This toolkit was developed for anyone who works in local and state health departments, but it will also be of use to state and local decisionmakers, public health and environmental health professionals and leaders, family and community leaders, students, policymakers and

anyone interested in decreasing maternal and child exposure to lead and improving systems of care to meet the needs of lead-exposed MCH populations.

You can access the toolkit at www.MCHLeadToolkit.org. Check out the Tips for Getting Started to learn more about how to make the most of the toolkit for your work. You may also contact MCHLeadToolkit@amchp.org for additional questions or information requests.

Case Management Tip

Updates and Highlights

In spite of the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, the care and monitoring of those children who have elevated blood lead levels must go on. As your IDOH case coordinators, we thank you for your hard work to continue to provide that service.

NBS is an important tool in the case management process. There are a couple of items we want to highlight in an effort to make all lead case management documentation consistent in NBS:

1. NBS case investigations of confirmed cases (i.e., confirmed BLL ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$) and cases that have had an initial BLL ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ followed by a confirmatory specimen < 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ **CANNOT** be closed without first obtaining an approval from your IDOH case coordinator. For these cases, your documentation in the case investigation over the weeks of monitoring the child should provide the needed evidence to be able to close the case as either "Administratively Closed" or "Case Complete". It is after the step of submitting a "Notification" to your case coordinator requesting to close the case, and followed by receiving her approval, that the "Case Status" in the case investigation can then be changed to "Closed". Following these steps enables the IDOH case coordinators to accurately monitor the status of cases throughout the state.

Of note, in a situation where the BLLs are less than 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ throughout the monitoring of the case, no "Notification" is required to be sent to the IDOH case coordinator and the NBS case investigation can be closed without permission when the child meets the definition to close the case.

2. Completing **ALL** the fields in the NBS lead case investigation as thoroughly as possible, and especially providing complete notes documenting the interactions and activities with families, physicians, etc., is an important part of providing the most effective and comprehensive case management to your patients. All your nurse's notes and documentation of your activities should be documented in the "**Case Management Tab**" of the case investigation.

All the information provided in the case investigation are vital elements in the process of monitoring the child's progress toward a reduced blood lead level. Contact Teresa Kirby, tkirby@isdh.in.gov, or Lyland Murphy Ward, lmurphyward@isdh.in.gov, if you have questions or for assistance.

Risk Assessment Tip

When present, lead hazards can be found in many locations in a home. In Indiana, it's most commonly found in old paint, soil, paint dust and paint chips. However, some less commonly known sources that should always be on our radar include a variety of folk remedies, medicines and food items that are purchased from other countries, local markets or online. Two recent such situations involving alternative sources were discovered by two of IDOH's risk assessors during visits to homes for inspections. The first was a ginger-flavored drink mix,

"Vasa Kommulu", the family had brought back from India. Lead content was 146.2 mg/kg, which was much greater than the FDA limit of 0.2 mg/kg. The second case involved a family found to have samples of turmeric and Vilwadi Leaham, a remedy for a variety of stomach-related complaints, with elevated levels of lead present. Both of these scenarios should remind us all to be alert for the unexpected possibilities during your conversations with your families and your home visits. Contact Phil Waters, pwaters@isdh.in.gov, Amanda Timberlake, atimberlake1@isdh.in.gov, or Justin Meyers, jmeyers@isdh.in.gov, if you have questions or for assistance.

Blue Star Trading, Barhee Fishing Hero Fishing Toy Recall



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reported that Blue Star Trading issued a toy recall on its children's fishing toy called Barhee Fishing Hero for violation of the federal lead content ban. This toy poses a lead poisoning hazard, according to a notice posted on the CPSC website. The model number 1577C and the words "Made in China" are printed on the side of the box. The metal rollers on the bottom of the flying dinosaur

figures contain levels of lead that exceed the federal lead content ban. About 300 of these were exclusively sold online on Amazon from February 2021 through April 2021. Consumers should contact Blue Star Trading directly for refunds. Recall number: 21-754. More information can be found [here](#).

Staffing and Contact Changes in the LHHD

The LHHD recently welcomed our newest staff member, Grace Bassett, to the team. Grace graduated from Purdue University in 2020 with a bachelor's degree, majoring in public health. After graduating, she served as an AmeriCorps NCCC member in the Pacific Region for 10 months. She has taken the position previously filled by Amy Hancock and will be working as a data analyst in the Lead and Healthy Homes Division, processing data for the annual lead report and incoming data requests. Grace can be reached at gbassett@isdh.in.gov and 317-233-9264. We are pleased to have Grace join us and know that her expertise will be a valuable addition to the team.

Lead & Healthy Homes Division Website Highlight

COMING SOON!!

The division website is currently undergoing a major redesign! New sections with information for parents, physicians and expanded resources available for all site users will be added.



National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (Tracking Network) brings together health data and environment data from national, state and city sources and provides supporting information to make the data easier to understand. The information is presented in easy-to-use formats, making the site a useful resource for gathering data and information for presentations, grant writing, etc. The Tracking Network has data and information on [environments and hazards](#), [health effects](#) and [population health](#). On the Tracking Network, you can 1) Use the [Data Explorer](#) to view interactive maps, tables and charts; 2) View [Info by Location](#) for county-level data snapshots; and 3) Visit [state & local tracking websites](#). More information about the Tracking Network can be found [here](#).

LeadCare Blood Lead Tests Recall

In early July 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a recall notice concerning the use of some LeadCare® Blood Lead Tests (certain LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus and LeadCare Ultra test kit lots) due to a significant risk of falsely low blood lead level results. The FDA had concerns that the falsely low results may contribute to health risks in special populations such as

young children and pregnant individuals. Obtaining falsely low blood lead level results may lead to inappropriate follow-up assessments and care, which may result in patient harm. The identified test kits were undergoing a voluntary recall by the manufacturer, and the FDA recommended that customers discontinue the use of all identified affected test kit lots and quarantine remaining inventory.

The CDC has recently stated a concern about a potential shortage of LeadCare® test kits following the recall that may result in fewer children receiving blood lead tests. This concern is accompanied by a recommendation that public health professionals continue to work with the healthcare providers in their jurisdictions to ensure patients receive their required blood lead tests using other testing resources if a shortage becomes a problem for the provider. More information can be found [here](#).



Region 5:

866-967-7337

<https://www.pehsu.net/region5.html>

Email: ChildrensEnviro@uic.edu

The PEHSUs are a national network of experts in the prevention, diagnosis, management and treatment of health issues that arise from environmental exposures. Experts are available at the contact info listed above for physician-to-physician consult on lead toxicity-

CONTACT US

IDOH Lead & Healthy Homes
317.232.1250 | [Website found here](#)