

OCTOBER 25, 2023

MCHD HEALTH BLOG

The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

This week is National Lead Poisoning prevention week. October is also Children's Health Month so it is the time to raise awareness about potential impacts from lead. Even low levels of lead in children's blood can be linked to adverse effects on academic achievements. A blood test is the best way to find out if your child has been exposed to lead or if they have lead poisoning

One of the biggest exposures of lead can be right in your house. To minimize your risk in your home, a certified professional can test your house for lead if it was built before 1978. Other potential sources of lead can include items made in other countries and imported into the United States such as toys, painted furniture, and cosmetics along with many other items.

If lead exposure occurs the effects can be permanent, however when caught early, there are things parents can do to prevent further exposure and reduce damage to their children's health. The first step is to make a plan with your doctor to find the best treatment for your child. Secondly, find the exposure point of lead whether that is in your house or somewhere else. Cleaning up dust and giving your child healthy foods also helps to reduce further damage.

Symptoms of lead poisoning may take a long time to appear but it is important to be aware of the symptoms. Little by little, lead can collect in your child's blood, brain, and bones. Lead poisoning can affect just about every system in the body. Some common symptoms include slowed growth, hearing problems, anemia, loss of appetite, and fatigue. For more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead/national-lead-poisoning-prevention-week>