Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

November 17, 2021

Dear Parent:

A blood lead test is the only way to know if your child has been exposed to lead. Childhood lead poisoning, even at low levels, can cause learning disabilities, loss of IQ, speech development problems, attention deficit disorder, and aggressive behavior in children.

Health care providers are required to test all children in Maryland for lead exposure at their **12** and **24** month checkups to see if they have lead in their blood. We know that due to COVID-19, many children have missed their doctor's appointments and have not gotten their blood lead test.

Children are spending more time in their homes due to COVID-19, which may increase their risk of being exposed to lead dust, and lead paint hazards can get lead into their bodies. If you live in an older home (built before 1978), getting your child tested for lead is especially important. Children must be tested or screened for lead before entering school or child care.

Ask your doctor to test your child or call our Environmental Health Help Line toll-free at 1-866-703-3266 if you need help getting your child a blood test. More information on blood lead testing and lead poisoning prevention resources is available on the Maryland Department of Health's website: https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/oehfp/eh/pages/lead.aspx

Lead poisoning is preventable. Get your child tested today to find out if they have a lead level. If they do, Maryland has new services to help you and your child. Call us if you have any questions about preventing lead poisoning. Working together, we can stop lead poisoning in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH
Maryland Department of Health

Kaley Laleker
Director for the Land and Materials Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment

Paula Montgomery
Maryland Commission on Lead Poisoning Prevention