

September 20, 2018

Dear parents,

As of January 1, 2018, Allegheny County requires lead testing for all children in the county. **Children** entering Kindergarten this fall will need to show that they have had two tests to measure his or her blood lead level.

Here is what you need to know:

- 1. The new regulations require blood lead testing for all children at around 9-12 months old and again at around 24 months old. If your child did not have one or both of these tests, he or she should have a blood lead test as soon as possible.
- 2. We will accept any written proof from your child's doctor showing when the blood lead tests were done.

If your child doesn't have a doctor, doesn't have insurance, or if your insurance won't cover blood lead testing, lead testing is available at the Allegheny County Health Department Immunization Clinic listed below:

Hartley Rose Building 425 First Avenue, 4th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (412) 578-8062 *Tuesdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Thursdays 12-4 p.m.*

- 3. You can request an exemption to the blood lead testing requirement if you have strong moral or religious objection to the test. A sample exemption form is included on the second page of the sample blood lead testing form.
- Talk with your child's doctor about next steps if your child has elevated blood lead levels. You can also visit <u>www.achd.net/lead</u> or call 412-687-ACHD (2243) for more information about resources to reduce lead exposure at home.
- 5. A child will not be excluded from school if they have not had blood lead tests at 9-12 months and at 24 months, or if you don't have documentation of tests that have been performed. However, parents should have a "catch up" test as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping to implement universal lead screening in Allegheny County. To request additional brochures, or for more resources, please visit <u>www.achd.net/lead</u>.