

For Immediate Release:

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A little lead can cause BIG problems

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is Oct. 22-28

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) and the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA) are raising awareness for National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) and highlighting the importance of lead poisoning prevention – especially in children.

Most children with lead in their blood have no obvious symptoms. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect learning, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. It's recommended that children get tested when they are between 12 and 24 months of age, or later up to age 6 if they have not been tested before.

"Lead poisoning is 100% preventable," said GTCHD Public Health Nurse Amy Leiva. "A blood test is the best way to determine if your child has been exposed to lead poisoning."

The amount of lead in blood is referred to as a blood lead level, which is measured in micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). While the effects of lead exposure may be permanent, if caught early there are things parents can do to prevent further exposure and reduce damage to their child's health

"As a community, we all have a part in preventing childhood lead poisoning," Leiva said. "Raising awareness and sharing the facts are important steps."

The 2023 NLPPW theme is "Together, we can prevent lead exposure!" and by focusing on these three actions we can prevent lead poisoning:

1. [Get the Facts](#)
2. [Get Your Home Tested](#)
3. [Get Your Child Tested](#) (talk to your child's healthcare provider)

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Media Contact:

Cortney Brown/Marketing and Communications Coordinator
cbrown@gtcountymi.gov
231-313-9627



Proud member of the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance: 7 local health departments advocating for public health.