Dear New Yorkers:

Protecting the health and well-being of children is one of our most important responsibilities. It’s also one of the most difficult, especially when some threats—such as lead poisoning—are not easy to see. Children can come into contact with dangerous amounts of lead in their homes—especially those built before 1978—by breathing in dust, or handling and ingesting paint chips from old lead paint. The result can be serious, and sometimes irreversible, harm to their health.

This brochure explains the dangers posed by lead paint and dust in the home and provides ways to safeguard your child from lead poisoning.

We can work together to protect the health of New York’s children by preventing household lead paint poisoning.

Sincerely,

Letitia James

Resources

New York State Office of the Attorney General
(800) 771-7755
ag.ny.gov

Environmental Protection Bureau
Albany: (518) 776-2400
New York City: (212) 416-8446
Buffalo: (716) 853-8404

Learn More
The following federal, state, and local government resources will provide you with more information about protecting your child from household lead paint poisoning:

New York State Department of Health
Lead Poisoning Prevention
For local and regional prevention programs:
health.ny.gov/environmental/lead

Centers for Disease Control Lead Poisoning Prevention
cdc.gov/nceh/lead

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www2.epa.gov/lead
For listings of lead safe contractors:
cfpub.epa.gov/flip/pub/index.cfm?do=main.firmSearch

Lead Paint Poisoning

Keep Your Home and Your Children Safe
The test results mean.

If your child should be tested. Be sure to follow up and ask what your child and lead, you should ask your health care provider if it was exposed to lead. In general, if you have any concerns about your health care provider must ask you about any contact your child might have had with lead and to test again if there has been a chance that your child has been exposed to it.

A blood test is the only way to determine if your child has been exposed to lead. In general, if you have any concerns about your child and lead, you should ask your health care provider to test for lead in your child. If you are doing the repairs yourself, call your local health department to find out about using lead-safe home repair methods.

Wash your child’s hands and toys frequently, as they may become contaminated with lead dust.

Use maps, cloths, and paper towels, dampened with water, to clean windowills, window wells and other horizontal surfaces throughout your home every 2 to 3 weeks.

Create barriers to keep your child away from lead hazards if deteriorating paint surfaces can’t be fixed immediately. Close and lock doors to rooms with cracking, peeling or deteriorating paint – or use contact paper or duct tape to temporarily cover the deteriorating surfaces.

Check the exterior of your home, including porches and fences, for cracking, flaking, peeling or otherwise deteriorating paint. Painter’s tape can be used to temporarily cover deteriorating surfaces. Immediately repair any peeling, flaking, or chipping paint in your home, or areas – such as window frames – where the paint is being worn down. If you are doing the repairs yourself, call your local health department to find out about using lead-safe home repair methods.

Pay for Testing

For families with private insurance, lead screening for children at high risk of exposure is covered under the federal Affordable Care Act. Check with your insurance provider to find out what’s included in your plan.

In addition, Medicaid pays for lead testing for all enrolled children. You can also contact your county health department to see if it has lead testing clinics or arranges for testing of children who lack health insurance coverage.

For more information about having your child tested for lead, contact the New York State Department of Health at 800-458-1158 or visit their website at: health.ny.gov/environmental/lead.