

PROTECT STUDENTS FROM LEAD POISONING

HOW CAN I HELP STUDENTS IN MY NH SCHOOL?



WHERE ARE LEAD RISKS IN SCHOOLS?

Lead can be found in drinking water from lead pipes or fixtures, in lead-based paint chips or dust on walls, floors, windowsills, and bare soil (no vegetation) in children's play areas.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Children are especially vulnerable to lead because their developing bodies tend to absorb more lead from the environment. There is no safe level of lead and lead exposure can cause reduced IQ and attention span, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, kidney damage, hearing loss and central nervous system damage. Preventing lead exposure in early childhood is critical to improving academic performance.



BLOOD LEAD LEVEL TEST

New Hampshire is a universal blood lead level testing state. All New Hampshire children must be tested twice, at 1 and again at 2 years old. Consider reviewing health forms and implementing a school policy to insure blood lead level tests for incoming students are documented along with immunization records.



LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Sample all locations where water can be consumed by children. Remediate all locations where lead levels are 5 parts per billion or higher. Explore funding resources and requirements on back.



LEAD PAINT AND DUST

- Identify chipping, flaking, peeling or lead friction surfaces in your pre-1978 school or child care facility.
- Hire a licensed Lead Abatement Contractor.
- When renovating or repairing a pre-1978 school, always use Lead-Safe Certified contractors. Ask your building's contractor for proof of lead-safe certification.
- Train maintenance staff in pre-1978 schools on lead-safe work practices by attending an 8-hour Renovate, Repair and Paint (RRP) training course.
- Tell parents about the risks of lead dust exposure and encourage them to hire a Lead-Safe Certified firm for their pre-1978 home renovations. EPA provides materials to educate parents about lead safety and the RRP Rule. Search for "EPA Lead Safe Outreach Materials."



LEAD IN SOIL

Identify any areas of bare soil in children's play areas and have it analyzed for lead.