

Is Your Child Safe from Lead?



Lead poisoning can harm your child by causing behavior, learning and other health problems.

By the time you notice the problem, it may be too late. Get your child tested today!

Did you know...?

30 schools in Newark have tested with higher levels of lead in the water than recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Why does this matter?

High levels of lead in the human body have been associated with:

- Damage to brain and nervous systems
- Slowed growth and development
- Learning and behavioral problems
- Hearing and speech problems

How does lead get into the water?

Lead can get into the water from lead pipes, certain types of faucets, and lead soldering. Lead in drinking water has no taste, odor, or color, so you do not know if it is there.

Who is at greatest risk of the effects of lead?

- Children under age 6 (especially ages 12-36 months)
- Children living in older housing
- Pregnant women, nursing mothers and their infants

Who should get tested?

- Children attending one of the 30 schools in Newark affected by lead
- Pregnant women or nursing mothers employed at affected Newark schools

**For routine lead screening of young children or other concerns about lead exposure, please consult with a physician.*

When should I get tested?

DO NOT WAIT to get tested if you or someone in your family has been exposed to lead.

**The ability to detect lead in the blood decreases over time once exposure has stopped.*

Where can I get tested?

For testing sites and dates in Newark Public Schools and other Newark locations, call (973) 733-7333 or visit: <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/facilities/water-quality/available-sites-for-optional-health-screenings/>

You also may contact the **Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness** at (973) 733-7613 or your child's pediatrician or local health clinic to ask about lead testing.

** Lead testing is free if you have no health insurance.*

How do I know if my water at home is safe?

Lead can get into the water from pipes leading to homes and pipes and faucets in homes.

FOR FREE home-water testing for Newark residents, email waterandsewer@ci.newark.nj.us and ask that your home water be tested.

What other steps can I take to avoid the risk of lead exposure through water?

- Run cold tap water faucets for 1-2 minutes before drinking or cooking
- Do NOT drink or cook with hot tap water
- Use a lead specific water filter

**Boiling water will not remove lead.*

BEWARE: Just because lead poisoning often has NO immediate symptoms does not mean that it is not serious!

For Additional Lead Information:

The National Lead Information Center
1-800-424-5323

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791

Center for Parent Information and Resources
<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/ohi-lead/>



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