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COVID-19 Resources DHS

[https://dhs.iowa.gov/
childcare-covid-19](https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare-covid-19)

HCCI

[https://www.idph.iowa.gov/
hcci/products](https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products)

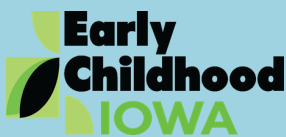
CCR&R

[https://iowaccrr.org/
providers/links/
resources2020/](https://iowaccrr.org/providers/links/resources2020/)

CDC

[https://www.cdc.gov/
coronavirus/2019-ncov/
index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



[https://
earlychildhood.iowa.gov/](https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/)

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Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

Written by **Kim Gonzales MBA, BSN, RN**

FEBRUARY 2022

Childhood Lead Poisoning



CDC photo Credit -Cade Martin

Buildings (including homes) built before 1978 are the most common source of lead exposure in Iowa from:

- ◆ Peeling lead-based paint and lead in dust and soil
- ◆ Renovations/repairs and remodeling of buildings built before 1978

HELP PROTECT CHILDREN

Are you aware that lead exposure can lead to serious health concerns for a young child? Children with very high lead levels can suffer from irreversible health impacts and in rare cases even death. Lead exposure at even lower levels has been shown to cause harm as children are highly sensitive to lead. Lead Poisoning symptoms may include: being easily excited, having problems paying attention, complaining of stomach aches, headaches, and being more tired than usual. Children who are lead poisoned don't look ill and the only way to know if children are lead poisoned is to be tested for lead. Iowa Department of Public Health recommends children to be tested at 12 and 24 months of age at their well child exam. Additional testing may be recommended depending on the risk of exposure to lead. Young children under age 4 are more at risk due to development milestones, such as hand to mouth activity. Good handwashing is extremely important to reduce the risk of lead exposure along with other measures that you can do to help prevent children from lead exposure.

Did you know?

Single "hands free" type infant carriers and wraps/slings **are not recommended** in Iowa child care homes and centers.

These type of "hands free" carriers can be dangerous and can pose of risk of suffocation and other potential injuries. Baby wearing products such as a sling, soft carrier or other type of carrying device have become a popular way to carry around a young child. Research has suggested that they can pose a higher risk of injury to children under 1 year of age. Over 14,024 cases of baby wearing injuries were reported to the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System from 2011-2020 and found that 61% of children of injuries occurred in children aged 0-5 months with 19.3% of these requiring hospitalization and 83.7 % of these children had a head injury. More that **one out of five** of all injuries were associated with caregiver falling.

Note: Emergency Evacuation (infant) Aprons are safe as appropriate for use during an emergency evacuation.

Check out
Healthy Child Care Iowa's
new Childhood Lead Poisoning fact
sheet on the HCCI website at
[https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/
products](https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products)

FACT

- ◆ Lead testing is the only way to know if a child is lead poisoned. A simple finger prick to collect the blood sample can be done by a health provider.

FACT

- ◆ Blood Lead testing is **required** in Iowa before starting kindergarten.