

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



## Get the LEAD Out

Each October, *National Lead Poisoning Awareness Week* is a call to bring together community partners and local governments to increase lead awareness by using their efforts and collaborations to reduce childhood exposure to lead. Scott County Health Department (SCHD) and their community partners worked diligently throughout the year to build a local coalition to address childhood lead poisoning in the Quad Cities.

### The Partnership with Augustana College

Beginning in 2016, SCHD collaborated with Augustana College to develop innovative methods to address lead poisoning in Scott County. The partnership began with three broad objectives: 1) find out how many houses in Scott County put children at risk; 2) re-engage former stakeholders to be part of the process; and 3) develop a plan to finance remediation without relying on federal grants.

Augustana faculty and students assisted SCHD with identifying areas in Scott County that are at high risk of lead poisoning due to factors such as age of the dwelling, rental property status, and other related reasons. Risks maps, created through this student project, showed the community and its decision makers that a large area of Davenport still had the potential to poison children.

### The Formation of Live Lead Free QC

The work of Augustana faculty and students, as well as Scott County staff, provided the foundation for a local lead poisoning coalition. In 2017, Genesis Health Systems joined their efforts to make the environment safer for Scott County children. Thanks to the hard work of this trio of community partners, along with many others from the Iowa-Illinois Quad Cities, Live Lead Free QC may soon be in a position to fulfill the original partnership objective of financing remediation without relying on federal grants.

Lead is all around us in our everyday environment, but lead poisoning is entirely preventable. "Despite lead paint having been banned in 1978, Scott County still has a significant number of children each year reported to have elevated levels of lead in their blood from lead paint exposure," states Ed Rivers, Scott County Health Department Director. He continues, "This is a problem we are dedicated to solving and one which has an endpoint: when all the lead paint is removed, no hazard remains."



### OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

### OUR VISION:

Scott County—  
A safe and healthy  
community.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, Room #638, 12:00 PM, Thursday, October 18, 2018.*

## Links

- CDC Lead:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm>
- Learn about CDC Blood Lead Test Recommendations:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/about/blood\\_lead\\_test\\_safety\\_alert.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/about/blood_lead_test_safety_alert.html)
- CDC Learn the Signs. Act Early:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>
- Zero to Three:  
<https://www.zerotothree.org/>

## Small Test. BIG Impact.

Lead is a poisonous, gray metal commonly used in many items found in and around our homes. This poison causes serious health problems in infants and young children. Even at lower levels that were once thought to be safe, lead affects the way a child thinks and behaves, causing decreased ability to learn, and behavioral changes such as reduced attention span and increased aggression. These small changes can have a large impact on the life path of a lead poisoned child.

In 2017, 211 Scott County children tested positive for lead poisoning according to standards set by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and over 4,000 children have been lead poisoned since 1987. The rate of lead poisoning in Scott County is more than twice the national average. Such numbers are surprising, but even more surprising is that far more children are likely harmed by lead poisoning, but never tested.

Health Department staff serve Scott County children through the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program. Highly qualified staff provide medical and environmental case management for children ages six and under affected by lead, conduct inspections of the children's homes, and regulate the removal of lead from the home. Children ages 6 months up to six years old can be tested at the Health Department during regular business hours. For more information, visit our website at: <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention>

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