

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



Lead Poisoning Prevention

October 23rd-29th is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

What is lead poisoning?

Lead poisoning is a dangerous condition that occurs by ingesting or inhaling lead. Young children face the greatest risk of becoming lead poisoned. Most children show no signs of lead poisoning; however, lead can harm the child's nervous system, including the brain and interfere with growth and development. In addition, learning can be impaired and the child may develop a life-long learning disability as a result. Furthermore, high lead levels can cause coma, convulsions, and even death.

Where does lead come from?

Lead can come from many sources including paint, soil, water, food, spices used in cooking, "folk" remedies, cosmetics, pottery, and toys. Lead paint is the most common source. Homes built before 1950 are of greatest risk for containing lead paint. Once the lead paint is disrupted, it can chip, peel, and create dust that a small child may ingest or inhale.

Who needs lead testing?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends lead testing at age 1 and age 2 as children become better able to move around their environment and hand-to-mouth behavior increases. Children who are at higher risk include those who live in older homes, have recently moved to the United States from another country, or who have a lead poisoned sibling.

How can we reduce the risk of lead poisoning?

Keep lead out of your home, watch for chipping paint, use good handwashing, and provide foods rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.



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 Emergency Operations Center,
1100 E. 46th Street, Davenport, IA 52807;
12:00 PM, Thursday, October 20, 2022*

Links

- Live Lead Free QC: <https://www.liveleadfreeqc.org/>
- SCHD Childhood Lead Poisoning & Prevention Program: <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention>
- Alzheimer's Association: alz.org/help-support/caregiving/daily-care/dental-care
- Iowa's Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias Program: idph.iowa.gov/chronic-disease-prevention/alzheimers-and-related-dementias

Alzheimer's Disease and Oral Health

Over 66,000 Iowans aged 65 and older have Alzheimer's Disease. It is the sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S. People with Alzheimer's are often at high risk of developing severe dental decay and other dental problems which can have a negative impact on their overall health. During the early stages of Alzheimer's, it is important to focus on the prevention of oral disease through daily oral care. As Alzheimer's Disease progresses, oral care and dental treatment can become less tolerable and more traumatic.

Helpful Oral Care Tips:

Provide short, simple instructions; breaking down directions into steps. Use a "watch me" technique; hold a toothbrush and show the person how to brush. Try different types of toothbrushes and toothpaste. It is important to be aware of potential mouth pain or discomfort. Please visit the Alzheimer's Association website for more oral care tips.



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