



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Oneida County Recognizes National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week *Awareness Campaign Takes Place October 22-28*

The Oneida County Health Department is raising awareness of lead poisoning during this National Lead Poisoning Prevention week.

"Oneida County continues to be on the forefront of lead poisoning prevention," said Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. "Our Health Department conducts outreach and education throughout the county and works with medical providers and other partners to remedy these dangerous situations. We must do everything we can to protect children and families from this often-hidden threat."

Lead poisoning in children is preventable yet continues to happen. No level of lead is safe, but at 5 micrograms or higher, this is a serious concern for the health of the child and action is required to provide services to the child and family. Children with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) may have learning and behavioral difficulties, attentional issues and negative impacts on overall growth and development.

A child with a blood lead level of 5 µg/dL or higher requires case management and a full-scale environmental lead investigation of the home by the Oneida County Health Department. In 2022, the Health Department worked with 155 newly-confirmed children with elevated blood lead levels and their families. Once a child has been identified as having an elevated BLL, the health department meets with and provides education and resources to the family, works with medical providers, and completes a full inspection of the home, both inside and outside. Property owners are required to make timely repairs to fix the lead dangers that are present at the home.

Lead is found in many places including soil, paint, toys, food, makeup, and other consumer products, as some examples. Children younger than 6 years of age are more likely to be exposed to lead dust as they are more likely to put things in their mouth. There are things parents can do to help. If you live in a home built before 1978, you should assume that the paint is lead based. Make sure there are no cracks or peeling in the paint. If you plan renovations, you should seek a certified lead contractor. Wash your child's hands frequently and keep windows, floors and play areas clean and dust free. Healthy, nutritious foods also help protect children from lead, especially foods rich in calcium, iron, and vitamin C. In addition, have your child tested. Every child in New York State is required to be tested for lead poisoning at the age of one and two years old.

"The effects of lead poisoning are negative and can be permanent," said Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D., MPH, Director of Health. "Prevention is key. Educating the public about the dangers of lead is crucial."

The Oneida County Health Department offers prevention education through community presentations, distribution of educational materials and being available to answer questions. If you would like to learn more about the dangers of lead, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm>. Call the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 with questions or for additional information and resources, visit ocgov.net/lead.

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