

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Health Care Finance



October, 2014

**TO ALL PEDIATRICIANS, FAMILY PRACTITIONERS, HEALTH CLINICS AND  
MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS SERVING DC MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES**

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) and the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) work together closely to monitor and improve children's health in the District of Columbia, particularly when it comes to childhood lead poisoning. In keeping with the theme of this year's National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 19-25, 2014), "*Lead Free Kids for a Healthy Future*," **we are writing to remind you of your legal obligation to conduct lead screenings for all children who are residents of the District.**


**District law requires that all children who reside in the District of Columbia are to be screened for lead during the well-child visit, first -- when the child is between 6 and 14 months old -- and a second time, when the child is between 22 and 26 months old.** Our data shows overall insufficient compliance with this important requirement, including a noticeable decrease in screening between 2012 and 2013. In addition to providing the blood lead screen, please remember that all blood lead results must be reported to the District's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). In the event a child is identified with a blood lead level equal to or greater than 8 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ), the result must be reported to the CLPPP within 24 hours, so that DDOE can take prompt action to mitigate risks for the family and provide the care the child needs.


As the child's doctor, you also have the important responsibility to provide anticipatory guidance to parents about the protective steps they can take to prevent lead exposure for their children. For a full list of recommendations, visit: <http://green.dc.gov/node/613342>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Colleen Sonosky, Associate Director of DHCF's Division of Children's Health Services, at (202) 442-5913, or Pierre Erville, Associate Director of DDOE's Division of Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing, at (202) 535-2505.

Thank you for all that you continue to do to protect children's health in our nation's capital.

Sincerely,

  
Keith A. Anderson, Director  
District Department of the Environment

  
Wayne Turnage, Director  
Department of Health Care Finance