

Lead poison is 100% preventable. All HPSJ children qualify for a Lead Screening test. Start by talking to your doctor on how to get one done.



Why is testing for lead poison important?

Lead is a highly toxic metal that can be found in soil, food and water. Not everyone with lead in their blood will have obvious symptoms. Even with a small amount of lead in the blood can be dangerous.

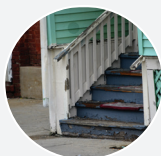
Who is at risk for lead poison?

Children **6 months to 6 years old** are at highest risk because they do more hand-to-mouth activity. This age group also spends most of their time at home, day care or older buildings.

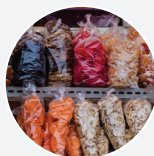
Where can lead be found?



Food



Paint chippings on old homes built before 1978



Imported products



Jewelry



Soil



Drinking water



Dust



Pipes and solder



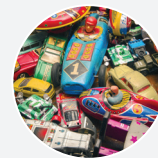
Makeup



Medicine



Yards and playgrounds



Toys

The most common way to get lead poison is by exposure and ingesting dust, dirt, and old paint chippings.



Visit www.hpsj.com/childhood-lead-poison-prevention for more information!

Lead exposure can cause:



Damage to the brain and nervous system



Slow growth and development



Learning and behavioral problems that lead to hearing and speech problems

These are simple ways to protect your child from lead poison:

- ☐ Ask your HPSJ doctor about getting a lead test done.
- ☐ Teach your children to wash their hands, especially before eating.
- ☐ Clean your home and toys regularly.
- ☐ If you work in an environment that has lead, make sure you change your clothes and shower as soon as you get home.

To learn about testing your home for lead exposure, start by calling your local health department.

San Joaquin County | 209.468.2593
<http://clppp.sjcphs.org>

Stanislaus County | 209.558.8860
www.schsa.org/PublicHealth/pages/clppp

Common Questions

How can I find out if my child has lead poison?

Your doctor will ask you questions to see if your child is at risk for lead poison.

There are two types of test that can screen for lead poison:



1. Capillary (finger stick) – in office visit; this will test the blood to see if there are any levels of lead.



2. Venous blood test – this can be done initially, or as a follow up test if they find high levels of lead.

Where can I get a Lead Screening test?

Start by talking to your child's doctor to get a screening done. Your doctor will then refer you to get a test done.

Is there any safe level of lead for a child?

There is no safe lead level for children. Children are especially at risk from lead because of their small size and developing brains. Lead exposure can affect nearly every system in the body.



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