



Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Protect Your Family from Lead Poisoning

Watertown, NY, October 22, 2012 ~ Nearly half a million children living in the United States have elevated blood lead levels that may cause significant damage to their health according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Major sources of lead exposure to Jefferson County children include lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust in buildings that are deteriorating or being renovated. Children can also be exposed to lead from additional sources including contaminated drinking water, take-home exposures from a workplace, and lead in soil.

Despite the continued presence of lead in the environment, lead poisoning is entirely preventable. To increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention, the Jefferson County Public Health Service, along with CDC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is participating in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) October 21–27. This year's NLPPW theme, "Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future," underscores the importance of testing your home, testing your child, and learning how to prevent lead poisoning's serious health effects.

Parents can reduce a child's exposure to lead in many ways. Here are some simple things you can do to help protect your family:

- If your house was painted before 1978 or you are renovating use lead-safe work practices.
- Get your Child Tested. Even if your young children seem healthy, ask your doctor to test them for lead. It is required for children ages 1 and 2.
- Learn about and avoid toys that contain lead at www.cpsc.gov .

To learn more about how to prevent lead poisoning go to www.jcphs.org and click on Preventive Services and [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#). For more information, contact JCPHS at 315-786-3720 or call 1-800-424-LEAD.

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