



## **JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

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### **Jefferson County Public Health Service to Offer Free EPA Lead Certification Class**

**Watertown, NY – 2/20/2024** ~ Jefferson County Public Health Service is hosting a free Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead Safe Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) training course and refresher course. The RRP refresher course will be held on Thursday, March 14 from 12pm – 4pm. The RRP certification course will be Friday, March 15 from 8:30am – 4:30pm. Both courses will be held at Jefferson County Public Health Service located at 531 Meade St. in Watertown. The RRP trainings are being offered in partnership with Flatley Read, Inc.

Federal law requires workers performing renovation, repair, and painting projects that disrupts lead-based paint in homes, childcare facilities, and schools built before 1978 to be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination and exposure. Common renovation, repair and painting activities that disturb lead-based paint include sanding, cutting, replacing windows and doors, and more. These acts can create lead hazards in the home which can be harmful to adults and children.

Lead is damaging when it enters the body. Children younger than 6 years are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning as it can affect their growth, development, behavior, and ability to learn. It is also harmful to pregnant people and their developing babies as it can cause low birth weight, pre-term birth, miscarriage and affect the development of a baby's brain, kidneys, and nervous system. Home repairs that create even a small amount of lead dust are enough to poison a child or pregnant person and put a family at risk. These classes discuss how to safely renovate older homes and ensure lead safe renovation practices.

The certification course is open to residents of Jefferson County who are: homeowners, residential rental property managers/owners, landlords, general contractors, maintenance personnel, and trade contractors including: HVAC, painters, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, window replacers, and roofers. RRP certification is good for 5 years from the date of course completion. To remain certified, you must complete the RRP refresher course before your certification expires. If your certification expires, you must re-take the 8-hour course.

The refresher course is open to any residents of Jefferson County with a current RRP certification. Please bring a copy of your current RRP certification with you the day of the course to ensure you get the appropriate credit.

Registration is required and limited to 12 spaces. To register, contact the Jefferson County Public Health Service by calling (315) 786.3730 to reserve your spot today.

Funding for the training is provided by the Jefferson County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program—a program of the New York State Department of Health.