

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

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Pediatric Associates of Watertown Recognized for High Performance

Watertown, NY~ The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) is pleased to honor Pediatric Associates of Watertown with a certificate of achievement for being the highest performing provider in testing rates of blood lead levels for children at ages one and two years old in Jefferson County. In 2021, Pediatric Associates had a testing rate 7% higher than the New York State (NYS) rate for testing children at both one-year and two-year old benchmarks. Additionally, Pediatric Associates has improved lead testing rates for one-year old by 20% since 2018. The award highlights Pediatric Associates commitment to providing quality health care and effort to reduce the impact of childhood lead poisoning in our community.

“I want to personally recognize the hard work of all the staff at Pediatric Associates of Watertown for continuing to prioritize lead testing in an effort to identify lead exposure in children before lead poisoning occurs”, said Faith Lustik, Lead Coordinator and Health Planner.

NYS regulations continues to require primary health care providers to routinely test all children for lead with a blood lead test at one year and again at two years of age; assess all children ages six months to six years at every well visit for risk of lead exposure and obtain a blood lead test if there is a positive response to any of the risk assessment questions; and provide anticipatory guidance for all families about lead poisoning prevention as part of routine care.

Lead is a toxic mineral that can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs as well as decreased learning and behavioral problems. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program works to protect Jefferson County’s youngest residents by partnering with pediatricians and providing care coordination for children who have been identified as having elevated blood lead levels. The continued collaboration among JCPHS and providers in the area is essential to reducing the exposure of lead among Jefferson County children.

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