

June Health Happenings

The Marshall County Health Department has an awesome opportunity for children 6 and under to receive a FREE lead screening! In efforts to increase lead testing in the county and provide better opportunities for families to screen their children, we received a grant from the Lead and Healthy Homes Division of the Indiana State Department of Health.

Just like other health screenings children receive, lead screenings are also beneficial to a child's development. Through testing and preventative measures, lead exposure can be prevented, but the first step is to have your child screened. Lead exposure during childhood can be harmful and cause a lower IQ, decreased ability to pay attention, and underperformance in school¹.

The screening our department offers is much more attractive than the typical blood draw test other providers may utilize by only requiring a finger stick with a result in 3 minutes. The rapid test result provided by our testing machine may seem more appealing to parents as time is saved on follow-up and depending on the result, next steps to work towards reducing their child's lead level can be discussed in the same visit. For these reasons, we are looking for opportunities to bring our testing services out into the community at events and/or childcare providers.

Testing is recommended for all children at least once between the ages of 1-6 per CDC screening guidelines. Since children insured through Medicaid are required to have lead testing conducted at 12 and 24 months, this screening can count towards their required testing.

Feel free to reach out to our Health Educator, Jacob Baylis at 574-935-8601 with any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to working with you to help improve the health of Marshall County children!

Reference

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Lead – information for parents. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/parents.htm>