Date: 10/21/2018

Dear Medical Provider,

This packet of information is being sent to you by Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, a Utah Lead Coalition (ULC) partner, to stress the importance of blood lead testing on your patients. The Utah Lead Coalition is a group of state and private partners working together to increase lead testing and monitoring as well as prevent lead exposure and poisoning in Utah’s children. Our website, utahleadcoalition.org, houses important documents that will help you in this important effort including Testing and Treatment Guidelines, Dietary Guidelines to prevent lead poisoning, Lead Exposure Questionnaires and Parent Guidelines for follow up of an elevated blood lead level.

Although the state of Utah does not currently require blood lead testing on all children (only those on Medicaid) or pregnant women, the ULC is recommending testing all children at 1 and 2 years of age or anytime there is a concern for lead poisoning especially under age 6 years.

As of August 24, 2017, the Injury Reporting Rule (Utah Code R386-703) was revised stating “cases of elevated blood lead levels include all persons with blood lead concentrations equal to or greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter”. Prior to this change, only persons with a blood lead level ≥10μ/dL, were considered elevated.

Based on our current, limited data, we estimate over 5,000 Utah children 5 years and under could have an elevated blood lead level, 2.1% of those tested and reported. Even small amounts of lead in the body can result in lower IQ scores and academic performance. Lead poisoning also leads to behavior problems including inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, aggression along with damage to most organ systems in the body. Lead can cross the placenta of a pregnant mother after 12 weeks of gestation potentially damaging a baby’s developing nervous system before it is born. It is important to use questionnaires to screen children and pregnant women for lead exposure, however, since lead poisoning is usually silent, the only way to know if someone has been exposed is through a blood test.

In Utah, all blood lead levels are required to be reported to the Utah Dept. of Health Environmental Epidemiology Program (UDOH/EEP) regardless of level or age of patient. If your office uses an outside clinical lab to conduct your blood lead analysis, the clinical lab will report directly to the UDOH/EEP. If your office is using an onsite, point of care machine, for your blood lead analysis (i.e., using the LeadCare II machine), it is your responsibility to report your test results to the UDOH/EEP. Please submit the following information for each case: patient’s name, birth date (or age if a birth date is unknown), gender, test date, test result in (μ/dL), sample type (venous, capillary), name of physician or agency/facility conducting the test, along with your telephone number, the patient’s address and telephone number and the parent/guardian name if the patient is a child. If possible, please include the patient’s race and ethnicity. Contact the local health department, where the child resides, to coordinate case management for children with an elevated blood lead level.

Report All Blood Lead Results to:
Email: EPICDEPFAX@Utah.gov
Fax: 801-538-9923
Mail and State Contact:
Mark E. Jones, LEHS, RS
Environmental Epidemiology Program, Utah Department of Health
P.O. Box 142104 288 North 1460 West Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2104
Office: (801) 538-6191
Email: markejones@utah.gov

Thanks for your efforts and if there are any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me:

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Utah Lead Coalition Partner Organization

**Salt Lake County Lead Safe Housing Program**  [https://slco.org/lead-safe-housing/](https://slco.org/lead-safe-housing/) Offers free services to qualifying homeowners, renters, and landlords to make homes built before 1978 lead safe for children.


**Utah Head Start**  [https://www.uhsa.org/](https://www.uhsa.org/) Offers education, health and family services that help disadvantaged children and families achieve their full potential.

**Utah WIC**  [https://wic.utah.gov/](https://wic.utah.gov/) Provides nutrition services to low-income women, infants, and children.

**Utah Baby Watch Early Intervention Program**  [https://health.utah.gov/cshcn/programs/babywatch.html](https://health.utah.gov/cshcn/programs/babywatch.html) Provides support and services to families with children from birth to age three years who have developmental delays or disabilities.

**Utah Department of Environmental Quality**  [https://deq.utah.gov/](https://deq.utah.gov/) Regulates and enforces rules and regulations on Air, Water, Waste, Radiation, and Environmental Response

**Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**  [http://www.aaputah.org/](http://www.aaputah.org/) Pediatric health care providers working to foster the well-being of all children

**Utah Department of Health Environmental Epidemiology Program**  [http://health.utah.gov/enviroepi/](http://health.utah.gov/enviroepi/) improving the health of Utah residents through science-based environmental health policy

**Salt Lake County Health Department**  [https://slco.org/health/](https://slco.org/health/) promoting the health of Salt Lake County Residents

**Housing Authority of Salt Lake City**  [http://www.haslcutah.org/](http://www.haslcutah.org/) provides rent subsidies affordable housing for low-income Salt Lake City residents.

**University of Utah Department of Pediatrics**  [https://medicine.utah.edu/pediatrics/general_pediatrics/](https://medicine.utah.edu/pediatrics/general_pediatrics/) promoting the well-being of children through clinical service, education, research, program development, and advocacy.

**The Road Home**  [https://www.theroadhome.org/](https://www.theroadhome.org/) Providing services to help overcome homelessness in Salt Lake County and along the Wasatch Front.