

For Immediate Release

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New Lead Testing Services Offered by SWNPHD

McCook- Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) was recently approved to offer Lead Testing services starting on Monday, March 17th. “We are excited to offer Lead Testing at our office,” states Melissa Propp, SWNPHD Public Health Nurse. “At age one, children are recommended to have a blood lead test. We encourage parents to have this quick test performed when their children are getting immunizations.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at least 4 million households have children living in them that are being exposed to high levels of lead. Approximately half a million U.S. children ages 1-5 have blood lead levels above five micrograms per deciliter, the reference level at which CDC recommends public health actions be initiated.

“Lead exposure can affect nearly every system in the body,” explains Tami Herskowitz, SWNPHD Surveillance Nurse. “Symptoms are not always obvious, so we recommend this simple test for your child.”

“Parents can schedule their children lead tests during monthly clinics in Curtis, Hayes Center, McCook and Trenton by calling 308-345-4223,” explains Propp. “Cost of the test is \$25. We can bill Midlands Choice and Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance.”

Monthly clinics are scheduled as follows:

Curtis:

Monday, April 14th, 4:30-5:30 pm at Medicine Valley High School (2nd Monday of month)

Hayes Center:

Tuesday, April 1st, 4:00-5:00 pm at Hayes Center Grade School (1st Tuesday of month)

Trenton:

Tuesday, April 15th, 3:30-4:30 pm at Community Building (3rd Tuesday of month)

McCook:

Wednesday, April 16th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at 404 West 10th Street, one block north of Arby’s (3rd Wednesday of month) Lead testing is also available on a daily basis if you call ahead to schedule your appointment.

Lead-based paint and lead contaminated dust are the most hazardous sources of lead for U.S. children according to CDC. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing in 1978, however, houses built before 1978 are likely to contain some lead-based paint. McCook Economic Development Corporation offers lead testing. For lead inspections, contact Mary Kircher, Certified Lead Paint Risk Assessor at 308-345-1200 or email: mary@mccookne.org .

More information on blood lead levels in children is available at www.swhealth.ne.gov and you can follow us on Facebook or Twitter. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

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