

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health acknowledges that there is no safe level of lead in the body; and,

WHEREAS, childhood lead exposure contributes to learning disabilities, developmental delays, behavioral problems, and other harmful health effects; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois passed the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act in 1973 to set mandatory assessment, testing, and reporting requirements in addition to establishing the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in the Illinois Department of Public Health to monitor the identification and treatment of lead-exposed children; and,

WHEREAS, in 2018, Illinois signed Public Act 100-0723, which requires public health intervention at five micrograms per deciliter of lead in blood; and,

WHEREAS, in 2022, more than 202,000 Illinois children were tested for lead in their blood, resulting in an almost 10 percent increase in testing rate compared to the historically low testing rates during the COVID-19 pandemic year 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Lead Program has made many efforts to combat the low testing rates during the Covid-19 pandemic year and continues to perform education and outreach to bridge this gap in testing; and,

WHEREAS, in 2022, Illinois identified approximately 3,300 children with confirmed lead in their blood at public health intervention levels; and,

WHEREAS, the primary source of lead exposure among Illinois children continues to be lead-contaminated dust and lead-based paint banned in 1978; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health Lead Program is committed to bringing awareness to the need for children to be evaluated for lead exposure; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is pleased to join with health care professionals, agencies, and their delegates in observance of National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week and to increase awareness and promote the prevention of lead exposure in children;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 22-29, 2023, **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week** in Illinois and encourage all residents to recognize the prevalence of lead exposure in our society and to join in working toward eradicating this unfortunate and unnecessary condition.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TENTH day of OCTOBER, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-THREE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexi Gianoulis
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR