

# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

*From the Governor of the State of Maryland*

### **LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 23 - 29, 2022**

- WHEREAS,** *Lead is a neurotoxin that enters the body through inhalation and ingestion of lead-containing substances, including leaded paint, dust, and soil; and*
- WHEREAS,** *In addition to lead-based paint hazards, children can be exposed to lead from additional sources, including cosmetics, spices, water in older pipes, travel outside of U.S., jewelry, toys, ceramics, and parental occupations; these exposures can cause irreversible and life-long health effects; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Even small amounts of lead in the blood can lead to impaired memory, decreased academic performance, hyperactivity, attention deficit disorder, and other behavioral disorders; and*
- WHEREAS,** *In 1993, 1 in 4 Maryland children tested were diagnosed with an elevated blood lead level of 10 micrograms per deciliter of lead or greater; in 2020, this significantly lowered to 1 in 400 Maryland children tested; and*
- WHEREAS,** *New requirements to test all children in the state at 12 and 24 months of age, under the 2015 Targeting Plan, were associated with a 10.2% increase in test rates of children age 12 months, and a 12.4% increase for children age 24 months; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant decrease in blood lead testing in children across the state; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland continues to encourage parents, caregivers, and healthcare providers to continue to test all children at ages 12 and 24 months, or at anytime a possible lead exposure is expected for any child aged 0-72 months; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Effective October 28, 2022, Maryland is lowering the blood lead level that triggers lead case management from 5 to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter to better protect Maryland children; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Education and awareness about the damages of lead can help protect the lives of children living in Maryland.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND,** do hereby proclaim **OCTOBER 23 - 29, 2022** as **LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK** in Maryland, and do commend this observance to our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 23rd day of October  
Two Thousand and twenty-two

*Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.*  
Governor

*Robert K. Lutherford*  
Lt. Governor

*John C. W. W. W.*  
Secretary of State