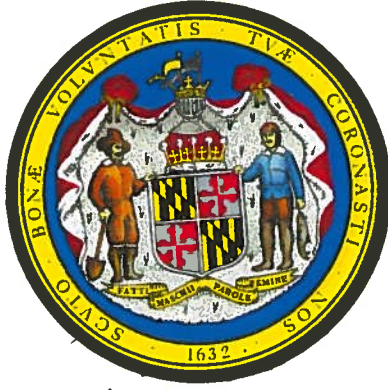


The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 24 - 30, 2021

- WHEREAS,** *Lead is a neurotoxin that can be found in many places in a child's environment, including paint and paint dust, food, spices, water, and soil; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Childhood exposure to lead can cause impaired memory, decreased academic performance, and behavioral disorders, even at very low levels of lead exposure; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland has made significant progress to reduce the number of children exposed to this preventable poisoning by more than 98 percent since 1996; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Despite this progress, 1,171 children were identified with dangerous blood lead levels at or above the CDC "Reference Level" of 5 micrograms per deciliter in 2020; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced the number of children tested for lead in Maryland; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland agencies have continued through the pandemic to provide important services and assistance, including medical and environmental case management and no-cost removal of lead hazards from homes through the "Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids" program; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Blood lead testing of all Maryland children at 1 and 2 years of age is critical to identifying and preventing further lead exposure and linking families with assistance; and*
- WHEREAS,** *We must continue to work together with our federal, state, and local partners to lower the incidence of lead exposure, by advancing public awareness and leveraging resources to help families affected by this preventable disease.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 24 - 30, 2021 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 24th day of October
Two Thousand and twenty-



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Robert K. Lutherford
Lt. Governor

John C. Womack
Secretary of State