

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 25 - 31, 2020

- WHEREAS,** *Lead is a naturally occurring element found in the environment, but exposure to it may result in long-term neurological damages, especially if it occurs during the critical stages of brain development in early childhood; and*
- WHEREAS,** *According to the 2019 American Community Survey estimate, 27% of Maryland housing units were built prior to 1960, when lead was most prevalent; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland has made significant progress to reduce the number of young citizens exposed to this preventable disease by more than 98 percent since 1996; however, 1,198 children were identified with dangerous blood lead levels at the "Reference Level" of $\geq 5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in 2019; and*
- WHEREAS,** *As part of a statewide initiative to lower the incidence of childhood lead exposure in Maryland, regulations were adopted to require universal blood lead testing and state and local response at lower blood lead levels; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland launched a \$7.2 million initiative to reduce lead poisoning and improve asthma, two conditions related to environmental conditions in housing impacting our most vulnerable citizens; and*
- WHEREAS,** *We must continue to work together with our federal, state, and local partners to combat this childhood public health concern and improve the quality of life in Maryland for generations to come.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 25 - 31, 2020 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 25th day of October
Two Thousand and twenty

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Byrd H. Lathrop
Lt. Governor

John C. Wetherell
Secretary of State