Proclamation
From the Governor of the State of Maryland
LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2019

WHEREAS, Every Marylander deserves to grow up in a healthy, safe environment free from the irreversible effects of lead exposure; and
WHEREAS, Maryland has made significant progress in reducing the number of young citizens exposed to this preventable disease by more than 98 percent since 1996; however, 390 children were identified as lead poisoned statewide in 2018; and
WHEREAS, Maryland continues to work to increase testing of all children statewide, regardless of risk factors, because lead has no boundaries; and
WHEREAS, Because lead interferes with normal brain development, and is associated with reduced IQ, learning disabilities and behavioral disorders, affecting the lifelong potential of our youngest citizens, Marylanders are encouraged to have their children tested for lead at one and two years of age; and
WHEREAS, Maryland has adopted a new lower “Reference Level” of 5µg/dL to initiate lead case management of all children less than 6 years of age; and
WHEREAS, Maryland collaborates with federal, state and local partners to ensure a lead-safe environment for all Marylanders, by developing and enforcing policies that support the prevention of lead exposure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2019 as LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK in Maryland, and do commend this observance to our citizens.