

Template Letter to Health Care Providers

Adapted from San Francisco CLPPP. Copy and paste the text into your jurisdiction's official letterhead.

Dear Medical Provider,

First and foremost, we want to thank you for your commitment to caring for your patients during these challenging times. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) will continue to be available to assist you in providing guidance and resources on lead poisoning prevention throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and thereafter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if the need arises.

Lead-contaminated dust is one of the most common causes of elevated blood lead levels in children. Dust and soil may become contaminated from chipped or peeling lead-based paint, emissions from industrial practices, and legacy contamination from leaded gasoline. When lead dust is present in the home environment, children are at greater risk for ingesting lead dust due to mouthing and crawling behaviors. Now that children and their families are spending more time at home, it is a critical time to educate parents and caregivers on how to prevent lead poisoning.

These simple actions can help protect families and children from lead exposure and lead poisoning:

- Wash hands with soap and water before eating and sleeping and after playing and gardening.
- Wash toys frequently and dispose of toys with chipping paint.
- Clean dusty surfaces frequently: Use water and an all-purpose cleanser to wet mop hard floors and wipe windowsills and other hard surfaces with a wet paper towel or sponge. Vacuum area rugs, wall-to-wall carpet and upholstered furniture. If possible, use a vacuum with a built-in High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter.
- Remove shoes before entering the home.
- Prevent children from playing on or in bare soil. Soil may contain lead.
- Ensure house paint remains intact.

Although damaged and peeling paint is a primary source of lead exposure in the home, there are other potential lead sources, including:

- Lead pipes and water fixtures
- Children's toys (especially if old or deteriorated)
- Imported traditional cosmetics, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, foods, candies and spices
- Traditional/Home remedies
- Religious powders
- Take-home exposures from a job or hobby.

If you have any questions or would like to request more information, please feel free to contact CLPPP at [XXX-XXX-XXXX](tel:XXX-XXX-XXXX) or www.CountyCLPPP.gov. I would be more than glad to talk with you over the phone, meet in person when it is safe to do so, or provide training for your staff.

Enclosed, please find [XXXX](#) materials that can be shared with your patients. Additional copies are available, free of charge.

Sincerely,