



St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 19th - 25th

Canton, NY — The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department is pleased to recognize the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 19-25, 2025. All children with lead poisoning are eligible to receive support from the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). This program helps connect parents with resources to identify how their child was exposed to lead and what to do about it.

The CLPPP identifies and monitors children who have been identified with Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs). The department works closely with healthcare providers and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Canton District Office to identify how the child was exposed to lead and to help the family lower the child's blood lead level.

In 2024, 29 children were newly diagnosed with lead poisoning, and 100 children were on active caseload. In St. Lawrence County, 46% of one-year-olds and 41% of two-year-olds were tested for lead poisoning within New York State required time frames. On average, approximately 118 children were tested each month for lead. Throughout the year, a total of 1,413 lead tests were conducted.

If you think there might be lead in your home, it's easy to get your child tested for lead exposure. Call your child's healthcare provider to schedule a blood lead level (BLL) test, which is the only way to know for sure if your child has been exposed.

Lead poisoning can affect a child's growth, behavior, and learning, but it is entirely preventable. Follow these five steps to protect kids from lead poisoning:

1. Test your home for lead – Homes built before 1978 are at the highest risk for lead-based paint hazards.
2. Wash hands often – Especially before meals, snacks, and bedtime.
3. Clean surfaces and toys regularly – Use wet wipes or a damp cloth to reduce exposure to lead dust.
4. Feed your child a healthy diet – Foods rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C help reduce the body's absorption of lead.
5. Get your child tested at ages 1 and 2 – Early testing is key to preventing long-term health effects.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
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Resources:

- Answers to frequently asked questions about lead poisoning and prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/about/>
- Symptoms of lead exposure:
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/lead/signs-symptoms/index.html>
- To learn more about the St. Lawrence County Health Department's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:
<https://www.stlawco.gov/Departments/PublicHealth/LeadPoisoningPreventionProgram>.

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