



St. Joseph County Health Department

"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease injury and disability for all St Joseph County residents"

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THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

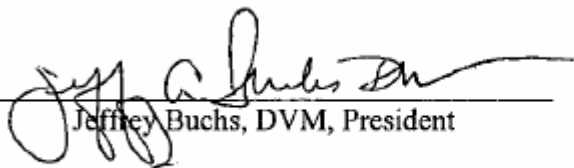
CALLS FOR A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT IN THE PREVENTION OF CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

The St. Joseph County Board of Health recognizes that:

- Lead poisoning is a serious public health issue that has a severe impact on the health of our children.
- Lead poisoning primarily afflicts the most defenseless members of our community, our young children.
- All children in St. Joseph County have been designated by the State Department of Health to be at high risk of being lead poisoned.
- Lead poisoning is severely under-diagnosed in St. Joseph County.
- Lead poisoning is a preventable disease.
- The long-term financial cost to society for not eliminating lead hazards is well over twice the cost of eliminating the hazards.
- Federal and State agencies and national public health organizations are taking aggressive steps to eliminate lead poisoning.
- The Health Department and community based public health organizations have recognized the importance of lead poisoning prevention and are strengthening their lead poisoning prevention programs.

Therefore, the Board is announcing that childhood lead poisoning prevention is a critical priority for the Health Department in 2006. The Board calls upon all government officials and the community organizations to enhance their support for the elimination of childhood lead poisoning throughout St. Joseph County.

The Health Department is directed to significantly strengthen and expand the lead poisoning prevention program in 2006.


Jeffrey Buchs, DVM, President

3/1/06
Date