



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 CHILDHOOD BLOOD-LEAD TESTING POLICY FOR ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CHILDREN

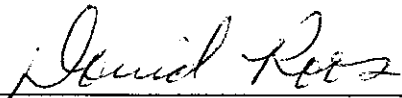
The St. Joseph County Board of Health recognizes that:

- Lead poisoning is a serious public health issue that has a severe impact on the health of our children, yet it is a preventable disease.
- 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; less than 20 percent of children under age 7 receive blood-lead tests yearly.
- Children most likely to be found with lead poisoning in St. Joseph County are between the ages of 1 and 4 years, according to a comprehensive review of data performed by the Health Department.
- The areas to the northwest, west, or south of downtown South Bend have produced the majority of lead-poisoned children since 2003.

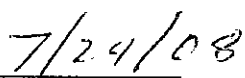
Therefore, the Board has established the following policy for testing blood-lead levels of children living in St. Joseph County:

- Every child shall have their blood-lead level tested yearly at ages 1, 2, 3, and 4 years of age.
- Children who are 5 and 6 shall have a blood-lead test if there is no record of a test being performed at those earlier ages.
- Health-care providers should be aware that children who live northwest, west or south of downtown South Bend have a much higher risk of being lead-poisoned. Health-care providers should test all children who live in these areas yearly through age 6.
- Every health-care provider should ensure that no child leaves their care unless the child's lead testing record is confirmed to be in compliance with the policy listed above.

This policy is consistent with the blood-lead testing policies of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Board calls upon all medical providers to follow this recommendation and support lead poisoning prevention activities throughout St. Joseph County.



David Roos, President



Date