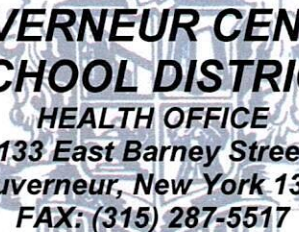


BEV MARTIN, RN
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(315) 287-1902

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High School
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**GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL
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133 East Barney Street
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FAX: (315) 287-5517**

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LEAD SCREENING TESTS FOR PRESCHOOL- AGE CHILDREN

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Enclosed please find an informational flier regarding lead poisoning.

Preschool-age children are at some risk of getting poisoned by lead. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) regulations now require lead screening of *all* children under six years of age and enrolled in a pre-kindergarten program. (Title 10, New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Part 67, Subpart 67-1)

The purpose of testing, or screening for blood lead levels, is to provide for the early identification of children with elevated blood lead levels and, once identified, coordinate intervention services.

If you have small children in your home, you should be especially concerned about the health risks posed by lead. Even at low levels, exposure to lead can cause serious and permanent damage to the health of young children.

If you have any questions regarding the State-mandated lead screening, please feel free to call me at 287-1902.

Sincerely,

Bev Martin, RN—Head of Health Services

Complying with State-mandated Lead Screening

When your child receives the lead screening, please have the information below completed and return to your child's school so we can record it on his/her cumulative health record.

Students Name: _____ School: _____

Date of Lead Screening: _____ Result: _____

MD/Healthcare Provider Signature: _____

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LEAD POISONING INFORMATION

- Lead is an element that has no useful purpose in the body and is known to cause harmful effects, including, the neurological, hemato-poietic and renal systems. The effects can be insidious or acute.
- The likelihood that lead will cause harmful effects and the nature of these effects is related to the extent and duration of exposure.

RISK FACTORS FOR LEAD POISONING:

- Exposure to contaminated dust, soil, and water.
- Living in housing built prior to 1950.
- Poverty, race and ethnicity.
- Occupational exposure of the parent. Jobs involving exposure to lead are: refinishing furniture, welding, battery recycling, construction & pottery making.
- Exposure to parental hobbies that use leaded products. Loading ammunition stained glass, fishing sinkers etc.
- Exposure to folk remedies such as pay-loo-ah, greta, azarcon, bali gola, coral and several others.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- Use unleaded paints in the home, on furniture and children's toy
- Wash your child's hands frequently. Dirt tracked into the home may contain lead. Young children do a lot of hand to mouth activity and will decrease exposure with clean hands
- Encourage a diet adequate in calcium, iron and vitamin C. Lead is less likely to absorb if the intake of these vitamins and minerals is adequate.
- Know your child's blood lead level.