



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IDPH Adds Nearly 150 More High-Risk ZIP Codes to Lead Testing List

Move puts state closer to goal of universal lead testing by 2026

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has announced an expanded list of high-risk ZIP codes, increasing mandatory testing for lead exposure of children who live within those areas. 148 new zip codes, representing parts of 60 Illinois counties, have been added to the list this year, bringing the total of high-risk ZIP codes to almost 1,200.

“There is no safe level of lead in the blood,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “To better serve our children and build brighter futures for all of our residents, IDPH is acting to ensure that more children have access to the testing and interventions necessary to decrease the potential serious physical and developmental health concerns linked to lead exposure.”

Under Illinois law, any child residing in a high-risk ZIP code is to be tested automatically at 12 and 24 months*. All children six years of age and younger are required to be assessed for lead exposure through the use of a questionnaire administered by a pediatrician. In addition, children who fall into other risk categories spelled out in the questionnaire are also tested.

High-risk ZIP codes are determined through an algorithm that assesses a number of different risk factors. The department has been expanding that list of ZIP codes gradually and expects to implement universal testing for lead exposure across all Illinois ZIP codes by 2026. The new expanded list, which took effect July 1, 2024, can be found at: [Pediatric Lead Poisoning High-Risk ZIP Code Areas \(illinois.gov\)](#).

Under current Illinois law, blood tests which come back with lead levels in excess of five micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) require a public health intervention. This includes a home inspection to determine the source of the lead contamination. If lead is found, the inspector will work with the homeowner to remove the sources of lead. In addition, there will also be a visit from a public health nurse who will educate the family on ways to protect children from the harmful effects of lead.

(more)

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The newly-added ZIP codes come from the following Illinois counties:

Adams	Henry	Peoria
Alexander	Jackson	Piatt
Bond	Jefferson	Pope
Boone	Jo Daviess	Pulaski
Calhoun	Johnson	Putnam
Carroll	Kane	Randolph
Champaign	La Salle	Richland
Clinton	Lake	Rock Island
Coles	Lee	St. Clair
Cook	Macon	Saline
Crawford	Macoupin	Sangamon
Cumberland	Madison	Shelby
Dekalb	Marion	Tazewell
Douglas	Marshall	Union
DuPage	Massac	Vermilion
Edwards	McLean	Washington
Effingham	Monroe	White
Franklin	Montgomery	Whiteside
Gallatin	Morgan	Will
Hardin	Ogle	Winnebago

**An earlier version of this release incorrectly stated the testing requirements under Illinois law.*

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