



Lead Action Week Plan by Hazelwood North Action Group, Victoria, Australia

Globally the “Lead Week of Action” is called the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA), and events during the week, such as this information campaign, are listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) at <https://www.who.int/campaigns/international-lead-poisoning-prevention-week/2020/list-of-registered-events>

LEAD ACTION WEEK 2020

Each day this week we are covering a different topic relating to LEAD and Lead EXPOSURE

1. Lead and Children
2. Lead in Paint and Lead in Hobbies
3. Lead Hazard Work
4. Lead and Your Health
5. Lead in Drinking Water
6. How to test your home and garden
7. Australian EPA Standard
8. Keeping your pets safe
9. Protecting livestock safe from Lead



Photo: Hazelwood North Action Group mums at the playground. Photo

by Sharon Slocum, a professional photographer who lives in Hazelwood North and has the business name of “Little Birdy Photography”.

<https://m.facebook.com/LittleBirdyPhotographyStudio/posts/3168736476509296>

25/10/2020

AM:

To launch LEAD WEEK we are starting with an EXCELLENT short video that explains the impact of lead and the way that multiple toxin exposures impact on the broader population’s health outcomes.

Check it out here: Shifting the curve

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tjoh-9QN414&authuser=0>

MIDDAY:

LEAD EXPOSURE IN CHILDHOOD

Lead exposure in small amounts has been shown to impact the developing brain.



It is believed that 1ug/dL of lead in blood is the equivalent to 1 IQ point lost. This means that even at low levels, across a community lead exposure can account for 100's-1000's of IQ points lost. Its impact on the educational, economic and social outcomes for that community can be huge.

Lead does not disappear! It accumulates in our environment- in soil, dust and water. The best cure is prevention and the removal of any potential hazards.

Learn more about lead, its impacts on health and where it can be found here:

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/Lead-exposure-and-your-health>

If you think you or your family have been exposed to lead- make an appointment at your GP now. Blood tests for lead can be bulk billed and can provide you with the reassurance and knowledge that you are protecting your family the best way you can.

PM:

For an excellent video on creating a lead safe environment for your children see here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1zkvJGH1uA>

This video was created to support families near lead smelters- and also contains important information on a variety of sources of lead in our everyday environment.

26/10/2020

AM:

Have you been struck with DIY fever this year? Be LEAD aware before tackling your home projects this summer.

Did you know many homes built before 1978 contain lead paint on both interior and exterior walls?

When lead paint gets old, it can start to peel or come off in pieces and become a hazard.

This hazard increases when home owners engage in DIY projects without knowledge of the hazards associated with these paints.

Find out more! #NLPPW2020 #leadfreekids



Photo: Sharon Slocum, "Little Birdy Photography"

<https://m.facebook.com/LittleBirdyPhotographyStudio/posts/3168736476509296>

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/media-centre/MediaReleases/lead-based-paint-warning-for-diy-victorians>

<https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/chemicals-management/lead/lead-in-house-paint>

<https://painters.edu.au/Consumer-Information/Lead-Paint-Hazards.htm>



PM:

ARE YOUR HOBBIES MAKING YOU SICK?

Did you know that some hobbies can expose participants to lead?

These include:

- Pottery (when using certain glazes)
- Lead lighting
- Indoor gun shooting ranges
- Restoration of cars or boats using leaded paints
- Making your own fishing sinkers

Learn more here:

<https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/chemicals-management/lead/lead-in-recreational-activities>

<https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/chemicals-management/lead>

27/10/2020

AM:

LEAD RISK WORK is any job performed in a process that is reasonably likely to cause an employee's blood lead level to exceed lead levels specified in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (OHS Regulations).

Employers at workplaces where lead processes are carried out have legal duties under the OHS Regulations. Additional duties apply if employees are undertaking lead-risk work.

It is a requirement of all lead-risk work employers to provide full health checks, regular blood monitoring and proper education and training around lead exposure.

Find out your rights here:

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/lead-safety-basics>

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/are-you-performing-lead-risk-work>

<https://content.api.worksafe.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-06/ISBN-Lead-guidebook-for-workplaces-2020-06.pdf>

PM:

CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO LEAD THROUGH PARENTAL OCCUPATIONS

Did you know that research into childhood lead exposure has shown that parents in lead-risk work can unintentionally contaminate their children through take-home dust?

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6427a3.htm>

Studies have even found lead dust on child carseats!

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5832a2.htm>



28/10/2020

AM:

HEALTH IMPACTS OF LEAD EXPOSURE

<http://littlethingsmatter.ca/2018/02/13/the-impact-of-toxins-on-the-developing-brain/>

MIDDAY:

HIDDEN CONTAMINANTS: Pink Salt

Photo: Sharon Slocum, "Little Birdy Photography"

<https://m.facebook.com/LittleBirdyPhotographyStudio/posts/3168736476509296>



PM:

IMPACT OF A SECONDARY LEAD SMELTER/BATTERY RECYCLER IN THE US

<https://theconversation.com/tooth-fairy-study-reveals-children-near-lead-smelters-are-exposed-to-dangerous-lead-in-the-womb-116408>

29/10/2020

AM:

LEAD IN OUR WATER!

Lead contamination of our drinking water can occur when:

- old pipes have been soldered with lead containing compounds
- Lead in air emissions are deposited on your roof and collected in rainwater tanks
- Ground water becomes contaminated with lead from industrial activities
- Lead contaminates our public waterways, water dams etc

[https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/A12B57E41EC9F326CA257BF0001F9E7D/\\$File/Lead-plumbing-products-Guidance-Statement-July2018.pdf](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/A12B57E41EC9F326CA257BF0001F9E7D/$File/Lead-plumbing-products-Guidance-Statement-July2018.pdf)

If you suspect that your tank water has been contaminated- get your water tested ASAP.

Tests can be organised through your local environmental consultant, chemical testing laboratory and community organisations like:

<https://leadsafeworld.com/solutions/lead-group-diy-sampling-lab-analysis-lead-test-kits/>

The good news is: Latrobe Valley's Water does not contain high levels of lead. See this afternoons post regarding correspondence with our local water authority and the latest test results for lead in our drinking water

PM:

Email with Gippsland water- (the details are on the lead week info (2) attachment)



30/10/2020

AM:

How to test your home and garden.

The legacy of lead in paint, leaded petrol and ongoing lead exposure through hobbies, occupations and industry air emissions means that lead contamination can even be found in our backyards. If you live near heavy industry it is important to test your soil and water- and to test every 24 months to monitor your exposure.

The VegeSafe program is a Macquarie University project that provide cheap, high quality testing to screen for heavy contaminants in your garden soil and household dust.

<https://research.science.mq.edu.au/vegesafe/>

You can also send off samples of multiple sources: backyard poultry eggs, paint, toys, soil, water etc through the Australian Lead Group

<https://leadsafeworld.com/shop/>

PM:

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR VEGIE GARDEN HAS LEAD CONTAMINATION

<https://theconversation.com/elevated-lead-levels-in-sydney-back-yards-heres-what-you-can-do-68499>

31/10/2020

AM:

AUSTRALIA IS LAGGING BEHIND THE WORLD IN BEST PRACTISE FOR LEAD IN THE AIR STANDARDS

An air standard for lead pollution is MUCH more than just a number. In the US not only is the standard for lead in air nearly 5 times lower than Australia's, they have specific standards for SECONDARY LEAD SMELTERS.

The US Standard requires Secondary Lead Smelters to provide ongoing monitoring of their stack emissions, estimate their fugitive emissions (which can be considerable) and require emissions to be averaged over a 3 month period. The US EPA is also required to re-assess the air standard every 8 years!

The US EPA also puts in place curtailment plans when industry causes an increase to the ambient air quality that places the community at risk!

The US Standard requires the EPA to station lead in air ambient monitors around the country to assess current ambient lead levels- allowing them to identify areas of control AND use the information to understand the impact on the community from heavy industry.

The US Standard is not perfect, and evidence shows that we need to reduce lead in air to much lower levels to protect children. Further- the US experiences poor regulatory oversight and inaction.

<https://www.consumerwatchdog.org/lax-regulatory-enforcement-leaves-thousands-risk-lead-poisoning-california>

But in comparison to Australia- it seems like heaven to have an EPA that re-assesses their regulations, strives to have best practise and is proactive in monitoring what is in the air!

(Note: the Victorian standard of 3.0ug/m3 is an average over 3 mins)



PM:

LEAD POISONING: CRIME OF THE CENTURY?

<http://littlethingsmatter.ca/2018/10/25/crime-of-the-century/>



Scientific Director and Narrator: Bruce Lanphear. Dedicated to Prof Herbert Needleman 1927-2017.

Below are additions to the week:

KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE

Pets can be exposed to lead in your home, through chewing items that contain lead, and through eating game shot with lead bullets.

See the following articles to help keep your pet lead free and safe

<https://lead.org.au/fs/fst9.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4960786/>

And also a post about keeping livestock lead free.

Photo at right: Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry. Photographer: Roger Kilburn. Cattle need to be kept away from lead. **Lead-safety**

Message: Cattle will lick sweet lead paint or lead powder on old batteries and they ingest soil when they graze. Use a LEAD Group Kit to test for lead and then remove it or keep a fence between lead and cattle. <https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/cattle-need-to-be-kept-away-from-lead/>



We will also add the following link to our FB site: **During the US National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the NIOSH Science Blog highlights take-home lead exposures for children and the importance of an integrated child and adult lead surveillance program. Read more on the NIOSH Science Blog.**

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2020/10/27/take-home-lead/>



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