Dear Parents,

As part of the SC EPSDT recommendations, each child should have a blood lead level at ages 12 months and 24 months of age. Please make sure you doctor is ordering a blood lead level to be completed at the 12 and 24 month well child visit. Our HS Performance Standards require us to obtain copies of these lead results for your child’s file. If your child is over 2 years of age, we need at least one blood lead level result on file. You may contact your child’s doctor or laboratory office to obtain copies of these results. If your child is over 2 years of age and has no documented blood lead level, you will need to request one to be completed by your child’s doctor. Some doctors choose to do a Lead Screening questionnaire to determine if a blood lead level is necessary. Unfortunately, this questionnaire does not meet our HS Performance Standards. We must have the blood lead level to be in compliance with the HS Performance Standards. Please discuss this with your pediatrician to determine if your child has been tested in the past or if your child may need to be tested. Please provide a copy of these results to your Family Service Specialist at your earliest convenience.

Please contact your Family Service Specialist with any questions or concerns. Below are some facts regarding lead exposure and the effects of lead exposure in children.

Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

Sincerely,

Ali Hill, RN, BSN
HS/EHS Health Manager

Julie McIntyre, RN
HS/EHS Staff Nurse

What is Lead??
Lead is a highly toxic metal that was used for many years in products found in and around our homes. An elevated blood lead level in a child is defined as 10 or more micrograms of lead in a deciliter (μg/dL) of blood.

How does lead get into the body??
Children are more vulnerable to lead than adults. While all children are at risk from lead, children living in older housing and in poverty are at the greatest risk. Children who eat paint chips or breathe dust from flaking or peeling lead-based paint are the most likely to develop a problem. Children may also develop high blood lead levels by drinking water contaminated with lead that may be in the plumbing system or by being exposed to contaminated soil or other lead hazards.

What symptoms will my child have?
Most children who have elevated levels of lead in the blood do not have any symptoms. When symptoms, such as stomach ache, poor appetite, and irritability appear they are often confused with other childhood illnesses. The long-term effects of elevated blood lead levels in children may include slow development, reduced Intelligence Quotient (IQ) scores, learning disabilities, hearing loss, reduced height, and hyperactivity.

http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/factsheets/Lead.html