



August 2012 Lead Line Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1



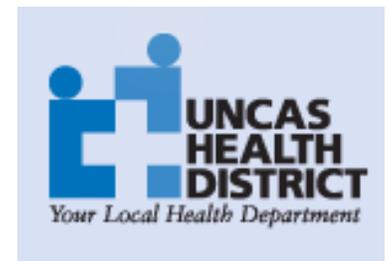
Lead and Healthy Homes Program - (860) 509-7299 - August 2012

Who Wants the Money? We'd Like to Give it to You!



The Lead Poisoning Prevention Funding is available to those 50 local health departments/districts that indicated they would be accepting the funding. The deadline for applications with budgets and proposed activities, along with the close out narratives and final expenditure reports for the lead prevention funding ending June 30, 2012 are due by **September 30, 2012**. Any questions, contact Krista at 860-509-7677 or at krista.veneziano@ct.gov.

Healthy Homes - Uncas Health District is Getting it Done



On Monday, August 27th, Devon Thorton, Health Educator and Healthy Homes Inspector and Patrick McCormack, Health Director of the Uncas Health District, presented at the Thames Valley Council Community Action Head Start In-Service 2012. Devon reviewed the Seven Principles of Healthy Homes and Uncas's Healthy Homes Program. There were approximately 150 attendees.

For the past three years the Uncas Health District has selected the Healthy Homes option under the Public Health and Human Services Block Grant. Devon is responsible for conducting healthy homes assessments, spreading the word about healthy homes and the District's Healthy Homes Program.

Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

www.ct.gov/dph/lead - www.ct.gov/dph/healthyhomes - (860) 509-7299
Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA



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To Take A Paint Chip? Or Not? DCF Protocol Has Been Revised!

The Lead and Healthy Homes Program (L&HHP) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) have agreed to modify the paint chip sampling protocol. **DCF staff will no longer collect paint chips from deteriorated surfaces.** However, DCF staff will continue to visually verify that there is no chipping or peeling paint in pre-1978 homes. By not sampling, it will be presumed that deteriorated surfaces in pre-1978 homes contain lead-based paint. Prior to being licensed by DCF, deteriorated surfaces will be corrected using lead-safe work practices by the property owner, or through hiring a qualified professional.

When deteriorated paint is identified, DCF workers will provide a L&HHP developed fact sheet for the property owner and foster family. The fact sheet will contain information on lead-safe work practices, and guidance and next steps for the family to make their home lead-safe. The local health department will continue to be notified about the status of deteriorated painted surfaces in prospective foster homes. When a property owner chooses to hire a contractor to repair and repaint surfaces using lead-safe work practices, that contractor will need to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule. The RRP Rule requires the use of trained and EPA-certified firms who use lead-safe work practices when disturbing paint in pre-1978 homes, even if the paint has not been tested. This approach to correcting deteriorated paint, whether it is the homeowner or an RRP-certified firm carrying out the work, should result in a lead-safe home environment for children. Verification through final dust wipe sampling and analysis will ensure DCF staff that the home no longer contains any evident lead hazards that will put a child at risk.

For the full 2012-0036 circular letter with further explanation and attachments, please click on the link below:
www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/lead/pdf/2012-36_dcf_protocol_061812.pdf

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Painting Company Fined for Failure to Notify Customers about Lead Hazards in New England

Contact: David Deegan, (617) 918-1017

On August 28, 2012 EPA reported that a national house painting company with offices in Woburn, Mass., has agreed to pay a \$7,200 penalty and to spend \$65,000 on an environmental project at a school in Cambridge to settle claims by the US Environmental Protection Agency that it failed to provide required lead hazard information to home owners in four New England states on 41 occasions.

According to a settlement filed recently, College Pro Painters failed to provide EPA's lead hazard information pamphlet to at least 41 owners and adult occupants of pre-1978 housing before beginning painting projects at units in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. This was in violation of the federal Pre-Renovation Rule, and the Toxic Substances Control Act.

In addition to paying the penalty, College Pro will spend \$65,000 to replace or restore 79 windows that likely contain lead paint at Congregation Eitz Chayim (Harvard Hillel Children's School) on Magazine Street in Cambridge, Mass.

College Pro, an interior and exterior house painting company based in Maryland, had more than 300 franchisees operating in 27 states as of 2009. All of the work at issue in this case was performed by College Pro employees or contractors, not by franchisees.

Continue on page 4

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Continued from page 3

The Pre-Renovation Rule aims to educate owners or occupants on how to minimize their exposure to hazardous lead dust that is often generated during painting projects conducted in older homes. The Rule requires that companies notify owners or occupants before starting work in homes built before 1978 that disturbs more than six square feet of interior or 20 square feet of exterior painted surface and that they provide them with an EPA-approved pamphlet with information about lead paint hazards and necessary precautions. Exposure to lead is particularly harmful to children under six years old and to pregnant women.

In June 2006, EPA's New England office sent letters explaining the Pre-Renovation Rule to more than 600 painting companies, contractors, and remodeling firms in New England, including College Pro. In 2007, EPA began inspecting several of those entities who had received these letters.

This case stems from an Oct. 2009 inspection of College Pro's New England offices in Woburn. EPA's inspection and follow up information gathering showed that College Pro failed to provide the EPA lead information pamphlet to the owners or occupants (or mail the pamphlet to the owners during the time limits required) on at least 41 occasions - 28 in 2008 and 13 in 2009.

The lead abatement project in Cambridge must be completed within 150 days of the agreement.

More information: Pre-Renovation Lead Information Rule: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadrenf.htm>

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Lead Poisoning in Pregnant Women Who Used Ayurvedic Medications from India — New York City, 2011–2012

Lead poisoning still occurs in the United States despite extensive prevention efforts and strict regulations. Exposure to lead can damage the brain, kidneys, and nervous and reproductive systems. Fetal exposure to lead can adversely affect neurodevelopment, decrease fetal growth, and increase the risk for premature birth and miscarriage. During 2011–2012, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) investigated six cases of lead poisoning associated with the use of 10 oral Ayurvedic medications made in India. All six cases were in foreign-born pregnant women assessed for lead exposure risk by health-care providers during prenatal visits, as required by New York state law. Their blood lead levels (BLLs) ranged from 16 to 64 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. Lead concentrations of the medications were as high as 2.4%; several medications also contained mercury or arsenic, which also can have adverse health effects. DOHMH distributed information about the medications to health-care providers, product manufacturers, and government agencies in the United States and abroad, via postal and electronic mail. DOHMH also ordered a local business selling contaminated products to cease sales. Health-care providers should ask patients, especially foreign-born or pregnant patients, about any use of foreign health products, supplements, and remedies such as Ayurvedic medications. Public health professionals should consider these types of products when investigating heavy metal exposures and raise awareness among health-care providers and the public regarding the health risks posed by such products.

To review the full article click on this link:

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6133a1.htm?s_cid=mm6133a1_e%0D%0A

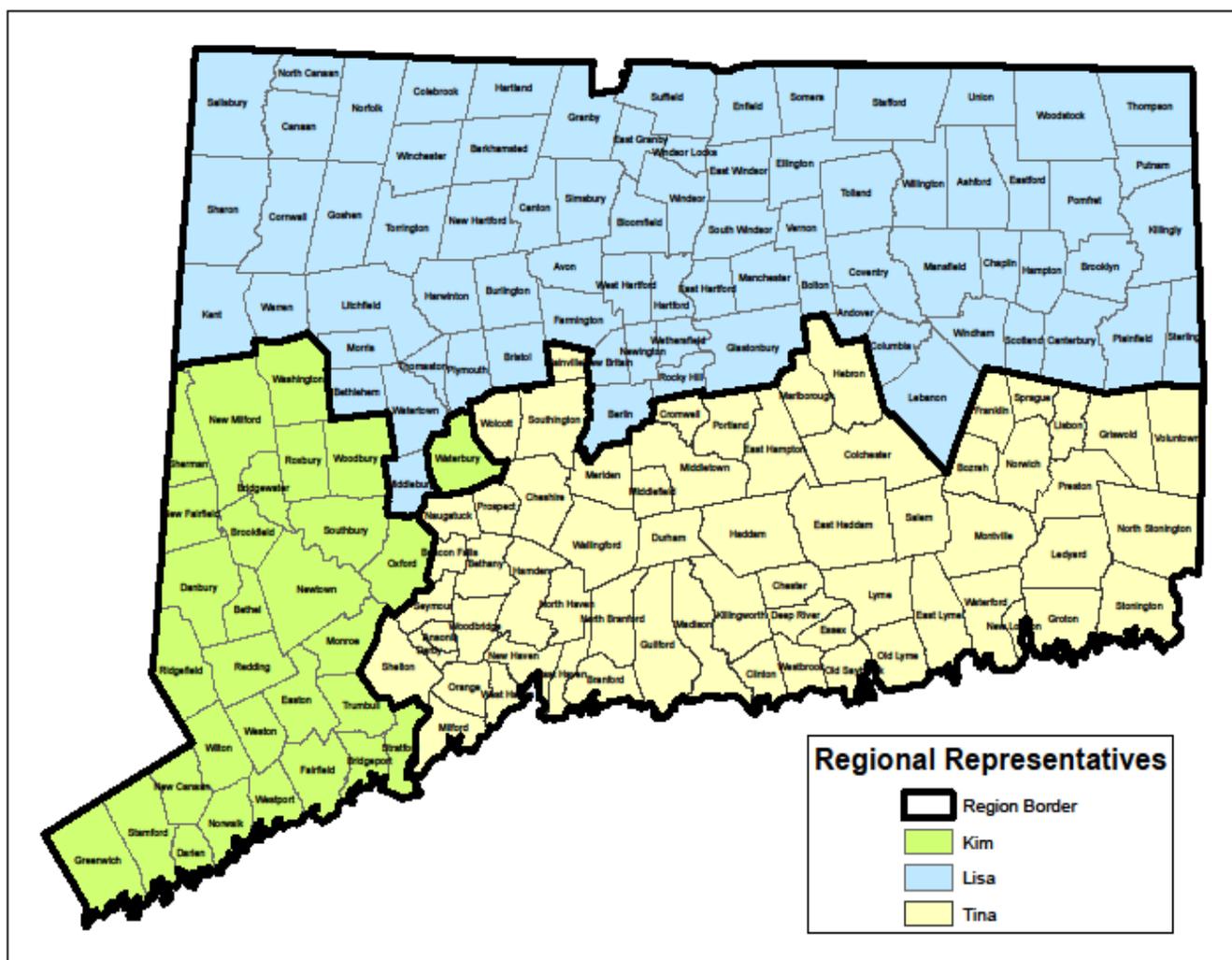
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Latest Regional Map for the Lead and Healthy Homes Program

Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Program Regional Assignments - 07/01/2011



Editor: Krista Veneziano