



Frequently Asked Questions About Lead in Candy For Healthcare Providers

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH LEAD IN CANDY?

Years ago, Environmental Health Coalition spearheaded an effort to get lead out of candy products to ensure the health of all children. California passed a law to regulate and audit candy manufacturing processes for lead contamination. It remains one of the most important public health victories in the nation.

WHAT IS LEAD POISONING AND HOW DOES IT HURT CHILDREN?

Lead is a dangerous metal that can be found in dirt, dust and paint. Even small amounts of lead are not safe for children; harmful to developing brains and responsible for irreversible developmental problems. A child can have lead poisoning and not look or act sick, which is why it's important to have your children tested by a doctor.

WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS OF LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN?

Many children with lead poisoning still look and act healthy. As a result, lead poisoning may go unrecognized. Potential symptoms include: flu-like symptoms, learning disabilities, reduced IQ, hyperactivity and aggressiveness. A blood-lead test is the best way to determine the diagnosis of lead poisoning.



WHAT SHOULD HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS DISCUSS WITH FAMILIES?

Most candy on the shelves today is certified as lead free, but you can always check the California Department of Public Health list at www.cdph.ca.gov or by calling (916) 558-1784. Recommend having children tested for lead during once a year during regular check-ups until age six.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN CANDY?

For more information, please explore www.LeadFreeCandy.org or contact Environmental Health Coalition at (619) 474-0220.

