



Riverside Public School
District 96

School Health Services



A Letter from the School Health Office

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week
Protect Your Children from Lead Poisoning

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 25th—31st. Lead is a neurotoxin which has been known to cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, lowered IQ, and even death at high levels.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), residents who live within the 60546 and 60513 zip codes, which includes the Villages of Riverside, North Riverside and Brookfield, live in a high-risk area for lead poisoning. IDPH mandates that children who live in the zip code 60546 and 60513 be tested for lead level at one and two years of age because of the high-risk for lead poisoning.

Most cases of lead poisoning occur through exposure to house dust which contains lead from chipping or peeling lead-based paint. 75% of all homes built in the U.S. before 1978 have lead-based paint in them. 97% of homes in Riverside were built before 1980; therefore most homes in Riverside are likely to contain lead-based paint. On occasion, children have contracted lead poisoning through exposure to toys containing high levels of lead. Information on children's products which have been recalled for various reasons, including lead content, can be obtained at www.recalls.gov.

Lead poisoning is preventable. There are steps for adults to take to protect children from lead poisoning. These include:

- keeping them away from chipping or peeling paint
- not using hot tap water for cooking or drinking
- serving frequent meals and snacks which include foods high in iron, calcium, and Vitamin C
- keeping floors, carpets, toys, and children's hands clean

For more information about lead poisoning, contact the Cook County Department of Public Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit at 708-492-2076 or visit:

www.cookcountypublichealth.org.