

August 24, 2020

We are back for a new school year, confident that you and all who make education possible in the state of Iowa remain healthy. New challenges have arisen due to the presence of COVID- 9, but we trust that we will complete the school-lead data match satisfactorily.

To complete the school-lead data match, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) provides to the school a formatted spreadsheet that is to be filled out by the school with information regarding children enrolled in kindergarten. The completed spreadsheet is then submitted back to IDPH in a secure email format. IDPH will electronically match the list of kindergartners with the information in our lead-testing database, and a list is given back to each school of children who, according to our database, have not had a blood lead test prior to entering kindergarten.

On Wednesday, August 26, you will receive a regular email in which we will explain to you in detail the procedures to create a secure email account, the data reminders, and the contact person to assist you with technical issues.

For those who are new, or need to remember how the process works, please be aware of the following:

- Watch the 4 ½ minutes video that explains the process of the school-lead data match.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vp2miN6bdYo&feature=youtu.be>
- If you have already a secure email account with IDPH, do not create a new one. This is only required for new participants in this process.
- Once you receive the secure email with the spreadsheet and instructions, reply to that email with the information requested. If you receive it by error, unsubscribe.
The secure email is not transferable. Instead, email sree.maddali@idph.iowa.gov or call (515) 281-0701 and provide the new email address.
You are not required to submit to IDPH blood lead tests of your kindergartners. Nor are you required to submit religious or low risk exemptions.
- Based on the results of the school lead data matching, you may be required to get back to the parents of the students who may need a blood lead test by the middle of December.

Exemptions:

- To request a low risk exemption for the child, the parent or guardian needs to contact:
 - Rossany Brugger Rossany.brugger@idph.iowa.gov (515) 281-3225
- To request a religious exemption, the parent or guardian of the child needs to download the certificate from <https://idph.iowa.gov/lpp/blood-lead-testing> and follow the instructions.

Important dates to remember:

- August 26: Regular email from IDPH (school.lead@idph.iowa.gov) to inform about the secure email account and general information.
- September 2: Secure email from IDPH (school.lead@idph.iowa.gov) with two attachments: the spreadsheet and the instructions.
- Sept. 2 – November 30: Timeframe to send your kindergartner's data via secure email to school.lead@idph.iowa.gov
- **November 30:** Deadline to submit the list of the kindergarteners enrolled in the 2020-2021 school year.
- Mid Sept. to Mid Nov.: A reminder email from IDPH to those who did not submit their data. Unsubscribe if you submitted your data.
- Mid Dec.: Results available to all schools that submitted their data.
- Mid Dec.-January 2021: Letter from schools to parents in regards to their children who may need a blood lead test.

If there is a need to accommodate any changes on the dates listed above, due to potential COVID 19 challenges during the school fall season, we will do it.

Looking forward to work with you!



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Iowa Department of Public Health
(515) 281-3225

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<https://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention/Providers-Labs-and-Schools/School-Lead-Screening>