

August 31, 2021

Greetings!

It has been almost eight months since we completed last year's school lead data match and we are ready for another round!

What is new this 2021-2022 school year? On the subject line of the secure email, you will receive the school district number/school building that is required on the spreadsheet. Ideally, the school contact person should copy and paste this number in the columns that ask for such information. In the past, there was some confusion regarding which number to use from the school directory, so now this should be easy.

For those who are new, the process works as follow: The school fills out the IDPH formatted spreadsheet to report their list of kindergartners with the required information. The school submits the spreadsheet back to IDPH in a secure email format. IDPH matches the list of the school kindergartners with the list of children tested for lead (ages five & six), and returns to the school the list of children who, according to IDPH's database, have not had a blood lead test prior to entering kindergarten.

On Tuesday, September 7, the school's contact person will receive a secure email from IDPH with the spreadsheet and instructions to enter the kindergartners' data. Do not create a new account for secure email if you already have one. By submitting your data securely, you will comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Exemptions: Only if asked by parents/guardians, please provide them with the following information:

- Low risk exemption for the child:
 - Contact Rossany Brugger Rossany.brugger@idph.iowa.gov (515) 281-3225
- Religious exemption:
 - Download the certificate from <https://idph.iowa.gov/lpp/blood-lead-testing> and follow the instructions.

NOTE:

- Regardless if parents/guardians request an exemption with IDPH, please send the complete list of your kindergartners in the spreadsheet, along with other information.
- You are not required to submit to IDPH blood lead tests of your kindergartners nor religious or low risk exemptions (This is the parents' responsibility).

Dates to remember:

- **August 31:** Greetings from IDPH through Govdelivery bulletin.
- **September 2:** Regular email from school.lead@idph.iowa.gov to provide general information about the secure email, spreadsheet and instructions.
- **September 7:** Secure email from school.lead@idph.iowa.gov with two attachments: the spreadsheet and the instructions.
- **Sept. 7 – November 30:** Timeframe to send 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 2021-2022 school year.
- **First Tuesday of Oct. & Nov.:** A reminder email from school.lead@idph.iowa.gov to those who did not submit their data and follow up.
- **Mid-January 2022:** Results available to all schools that submitted their data and letter to parents.
- **Mid-January 2022:** Letter to parents sent by schools regarding children who may need a blood lead test.

If there is a need to change the dates listed above, due to potential COVID 19 challenges, we will inform you in advance.

Looking forward to working with you!



Rossany Brugger
Mandatory Blood Lead Testing Coordinator
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Iowa Department of Public Health
(515) 281-3225

Rossany.brugger@idph.iowa.gov

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