Lead Awareness

Remember:
1. Children are most at risk.
2. No level of lead is safe.
3. Lead impacts learning and behavior.

84% of children with a high blood lead level had hazardous lead paint in their home. *

Minnesota lead sources:
- Paint/paint dust: Spices and medication, especially from outside of the U.S.
- Products (jewelry, beauty products, toys, ceramics, antiques)
- Parent occupation or hobbies (remodeling, construction, smelting, firearm use, pottery)
- Water

Did you know:
1 in 3 homes in Minnesota may have lead paint. Older homes are more likely to have sources of lead.

1 in 100 Minnesota children have an elevated blood level.

Did you know:
- Lead in drinking water is not a common source of elevated blood lead levels in Minnesota.
- If you have a private well, it is recommended you test your tap water for lead.
- Children should be screened for blood lead levels at ages 1 and 2 years old.

What you can do:
- Do not disturb paint if your house was built before 1978.
- Let water run for 30 seconds if you have not used the tap in more than six hours. Use cold water for cooking and drinking.
- Clean surfaces regularly with soapy water and a rag.
- If your work or hobbies involve lead, do not wear work clothes or shoes into the home and wash clothes separately.
- Call Minnesota Department of Health if you are concerned about lead in paint, products, or drinking water. Phone: 651-201-4620

Ask your health care provider about blood lead screening guidelines for your child.