

January 13, 2025

Dear Families of Golda Meir Elementary School,

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is committed to ensuring the health and safety of every child in our community. Last week, MHD identified one case of childhood lead poisoning. MHD's investigation discovered that the source likely originated from lead-based paint in the basement bathroom at Golda Meir Lower Campus. MHD is working closely with the impacted family, school leadership, and the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) administration to address the situation.

### **What Is Lead and Why Is It Harmful?**

Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful when ingested or inhaled, especially for pregnant people and children under 6 years old. Exposure to lead can cause slowed growth and development, damage to the brain and nervous system, learning and behavior problems, and other health issues. Lead poisoning often has no obvious symptoms, making it important to test for exposure.

### **Where Is Lead Found?**

Lead can be present in:

- **Paint:** Found in homes and buildings built before 1978. Chipping or peeling paint creates hazards.
- **Soil:** Lead dust from deteriorating paint can contaminate the soil.
- **Water:** Lead pipes or fixtures installed may contain lead hazards.
- **Products:** Some imported toys, jewelry, spices, or ceramics may contain lead.

### **What Can You Do to Keep Your Family Safe?**

#### **Blood Lead Testing:**

- All children under 6 should be tested for lead poisoning at the ages of 12 months, 18 months, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years.
- If you believe your child has been exposed to lead, contact your child's primary care provider to schedule a test.

#### **Preventative Measures:**

- Wet dust and mop your home at least twice a week.
- Wash your child's hands with soap and water, especially before meals and after play.
- Provide your child with a diet rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C to help reduce lead absorption.
- Run your faucet on cold for 3 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.
- Cover or block lead hazards like chipping paint and keep children away from these areas.

## How We Are Addressing This Issue

MHD is collaborating with Golda Meir and MPS to eliminate identified lead hazards. MHD is committed to keeping families informed and ensuring every precaution is taken to safeguard children's health.

For additional resources, including educational materials and HEPA vacuum rentals, visit [www.milwaukee.gov/HEH](http://www.milwaukee.gov/HEH). For general information on how to keep your child lead-safe, call the MHD Lead Program at (414) 286-2165.

Thank you for your attention and partnership as we work to protect the health and well-being of our community's children.

Sincerely,

**The City of Milwaukee Health Department**  
Home Environmental Health Division