
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Kent County Health Department Continues Making Progress on Reducing Lead Exposure
Despite Pandemic Shutdown**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (February 25, 2021) – Kent County Health Department (KCHD) Director Dr. Adam London provided an update this morning to the Executive Committee of the Kent County Board of Commissioners on the significant strides the Department has taken over the last year to identify lead hazards and conduct education efforts. All this work occurred despite the coronavirus pandemic shutting down site visits for approximately six months.

The KCHD manages three lead programs including the Children’s Health Insurance Plan (CHIP), the Multiple Elevated Blood Level (MEBL) list, and Ready by Five. Since December 2019, these programs accomplished the following actions:

- Ongoing or completed investigations at 161 properties that have/had potential lead hazards
- Ongoing or completed investigations on 81 properties (19 percent) on the MEBL List out of 427 properties identified by Lead Action Team
- Completed more than 57 site visits including Lead Inspection/Risk Assessments, Risk Assessments, and Home Health Screenings
- Cleared 39 homes of lead hazards including helping remediate/abate lead hazards at 28 homes
- Attained regulatory compliance through working with residents and landlords and initiated enforcement activities at five properties
- Fully staffed our lead team with five lead sanitarians, a health educator, and a lead clerk

“I am very proud of our team,” said Brendan Earl, Supervising Sanitarian, KCHD. “We have been able to continue the critical work of reducing lead exposure despite the setbacks caused by COVID-19.”

Additionally, the KCHD will be working in the months ahead to re-engage the [Lead Action Team](#) which was formed in February 2020 to bring together local units of government and a multitude of other partners to make our community safer from the harms of lead exposure.

“There is no safe level of lead in children and it is toxic to everyone,” said Dr. Adam London. “We have to keep

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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the momentum of this work going to mitigate long-term negative impact of lead exposure on our community.”

To listen to Dr. London’s presentation, [click here](#) and to review the KCHD’s accomplishments, [click here](#). For more information about the health impacts of lead, how to prevent lead poisoning, and where to find help visit <https://dontplayaround.org/>.

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