



# The Environmental Health Publisher

Keeping you in the Lead, Radon & Healthy Homes loop

Connecticut Department of Public Health

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## Refresher Training Dates

- April 5: Stratford Health Department
- April 11: Yantic Fire Department
- April 20: Sessions Woods, Burlington
- April 26: Kellogg Center, Derby
- May 4: Sessions Woods, Burlington
- May 9: State Lab, Rocky Hill

\*\* Registration will be open in February. Kim Ploszaj will send out an email with instructions.

## LHD Resources

Training for Health Enforcement Officials on Housing Matters, Presented by Judith Dicine (navigate to link below, then select second link from list)

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3140&Q=387578&PM=1>

## 2012 DCF/DPH Protocol Revisited

On November 8, 2016 Tina McCarthy and Christine Hahn attended a meeting with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) foster care program managers. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current protocol regarding the inspection of lead paint in potential foster homes, existing barriers to achieving compliance, and solutions to those barriers.

A circular letter was distributed in June, 2012 regarding the *Modification of the DCF/DPH protocol to prevent childhood lead poisoning in pre-1978 foster care homes*. The circular letter detailed the existing protocol— at the time- in addition to highlighting some changes.

In order to become a foster care home, DCF is required to conduct an inspection of the home. If the house was build before 1978, the old protocol (prior to June, 2012) required the collection and analysis of a paint chip sample. The updated protocol eliminated the paint chip sampling requirement, instead instituting that the DCF inspector **visually verifies** chipping paint and then provides the home owner with some materials, including: the DPH fact sheet *Next Steps Guidance for Deteriorated Paint in Homes Built Prior to 1978 for Foster Care Applicants*, which describes steps to take to make the home lead-safe; directions on how to find an EPA-certified Renovation, Repair, and Painting firm; instructions on how to find a DPH licensed lead consultant contractor; and a lead hazard remediation plan model template.

Among the discussion points at the meeting, the managers pointed to competing priorities as the major reason why lead paint does not always get addressed during a home inspection of a prospective foster home. We discussed how local health departments can be utilized as a resource and also reminded the managers that the protocol is not optional. Tina is meeting with all of the regions to train their DCF inspectors, reviewing the protocol, in addition to presenting important lead poisoning prevention facts pertinent to their inspections.

**The 2017 Annual Radon Partner's Conference**  
**Tuesday, January 10**  
**8:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Prospect Fire Department**  
**26 New Haven Road, Prospect**

## January is Radon Action Month

January is National Radon Action Month. Connecticut residents are urged to test the radon levels in their homes, as radon is a colorless, odorless and radioactive gas. Testing is the only way to know if your home has an elevated radon level, the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers.

Refer residents in your town to the DPH Radon Program website to learn how to obtain a FREE test kit during the month of January. Supplies are limited. We encourage all LHDs to advertise this opportunity via press release or on your Facebook pages.

Direct residents here: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/radon>

## Partnership with Commission on Equity and Opportunity Continues

The L&HHP partnered with the Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC) in February 2016 to develop a media campaign focusing on the Hispanic populations throughout the state. Recently, LPRAC, along with the African American Affairs Commission and the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission were combined to form one commission: the Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO). In early 2017, the development of another media campaign will start with CEO to address the inequities associated with childhood lead poisoning in our state, focusing on television and social media. One major difference with this campaign is the addition of a formal evaluation process. More details to come as the planning and implementation progresses.

## Community Health Network Delivers Lead Text Messages to Medicaid Patients

The L&HHP has partnered with Community Health Network (CHN) to develop and send lead poisoning prevention text messages to new moms enrolled in Medicaid under the CHN contract with the company *Text4baby*. *Text4baby* is a free service provided by the nonprofit organization ZERO TO THREE. A set of standardized text messages are sent to all enrolled participants, including topics like nutrition for mom and baby, doctor visit reminders and baby milestones. The L&HHP was able to work with CHN to develop customized text messages to all the enrolled participants which are sent out along with the standard messages. There are discussions to continue the partnership in 2017, sending one custom text message per month.

### Lead Poisoning Prevention Standard Notification via the App:

**At 37 weeks:** *Don't forget to schedule baby's 9 month check-up. At this appointment, baby will get an examination and might receive immunizations (hepatitis and polio), a blood test, or may be checked for anemia. You might be asked about baby's possible exposure to lead. Ask your doctor about any questions you may have about baby's development during this visit.*

### Lead Poisoning Prevention Standard notification via Text Message:

**At 50 weeks:** *If you live in a house or apartment built before 1978, it may have lead paint. Ask your Dr. if your child needs a blood lead test. Info: 800-424-5323*

**Custom Text Messages:** One sent per week in the month of December

Text Message	Spanish Translation of Text Message
Keep your baby safe, have a lead test done at their one year well visit. Go to <a href="http://ct.gov/preventlead">ct.gov/preventlead</a> to learn more.	Mantenga a su bebé seguro, solicite que se le haga una prueba de plomo en su chequeo de bebé anual. Vaya al <a href="http://ct.gov-preventlead">ct.gov-preventlead</a> para información.
2 b4 2: get two lead tests before your baby is two years old. Go to <a href="http://ct.gov/preventlead">ct.gov/preventlead</a> to learn more about the law.	"2 antes de los 2" consiga dos pruebas de plomo antes de que su bebé cumpla dos años. Vaya al <a href="http://ct.gov-preventlead">ct.gov-preventlead</a> para información sobre la ley.
Peeling paint in your home is a hazard and can make your baby sick. Go to <a href="http://ct.gov/preventlead">ct.gov/preventlead</a> to learn how to protect your child.	Pintura pelada en su hogar es un peligro y puede enfermar a su bebé. Vaya al <a href="http://ct.gov-preventlead">ct.gov-preventlead</a> para informarse sobre cómo proteger a su niño.
You can't see lead paint dust. It could be in your home making your baby sick. Learn how to clean lead dust safely at <a href="http://ct.gov/preventlead">ct.gov/preventlead</a>	La pintura de plomo no se ve. Podría estar en su hogar, enfermando a su bebé. Aprenda cómo limpiar el polvo de plomo sin peligro <a href="http://ct.gov-preventlead">ct.gov-preventlead</a> .
Is there peeling paint in your home? Did you know that lead paint tastes sweet and can cause brain damage. Learn more at <a href="http://ct.gov/preventlead">ct.gov/preventlead</a>	¿Hay pintura pelada en su hogar? ¿Sabía usted que la pintura de plomo sabe dulce, y puede causar daño cerebral? Vaya al <a href="http://ct.gov-preventlead">ct.gov-preventlead</a> .