



**KANAWHA-CHARLESTON
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NEWS RELEASE

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Free Lead Testing Event Wednesday, May 28, At WIC Office in North Charleston

CHARLESTON, W.VA. – A team from the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department will be conducting lead testing for children five years old and under on Wednesday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the WIC location in North Charleston. The event is free, and no appointment is required.

Dr. Steven Eshenaur, KCHD's Health Officer and Executive Director, said it's most common for children to get exposed to lead if they live in or visit older structures built before 1978 or they play in contaminated soil near factories, highways or airports. Some older homes may have lead-based paint, which can chip and create lead dust or they may have lead pipes or lead solder in water systems. Certain imported toys, jewelry or candy may also contain lead, or parents and caregivers may bring lead home from their jobs or hobbies that involve welding or construction.

"Children can be exposed to lead and there could be no symptoms," Eshenaur said. "It's important to find out if they have lead in their blood because it can cause a number of health issues and developmental delays. It's best just to know."

KCHD's team will conduct quick and easy finger prick tests from a mobile health unit for instant results. Lead testing is required in West Virginia for children under five years old.

This public service is in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Human Services/Kanawha County WIC Program, 4188 W. Washington St., Charleston, WV 25313. For questions about the test, contact Daniel Barker, epidemiology, at daniel.w.barker@wv.gov.