

PROCLAMATION

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week October 24-30, 2021

- WHEREAS, Childhood lead poisoning is a silent, but very harmful environmental disease that can cause serious long-term harm, including developmental delays, learning disabilities, cognitive and behavior disorders and in the most severe cases, coma, seizures, and death;
- WHEREAS, Toddlers and young children under the age of six years in low-income families and those living in pre-1978 housing are at higher risk of lead poisoning;
- WHEREAS, In Orange County cases of lead poisoning in children continue to occur. Almost 400 children ages 0 to 5 years were identified in 2020 with increased blood lead levels (preliminary data from the CA Department of Public Health);
- WHEREAS, Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick. The best way to identify children with lead poisoning is through targeted screening of high-risk children with a blood lead test;
- WHEREAS, Lead hazards are most prevalent in pre-1978 paint, dust, soil, lead dust brought home on parents' work clothes, some imported ceramic pottery, traditional home remedies, some imported spices, candies and foods, and hobbies involving lead products. Discontinuing their use and eliminating such lead hazards will help prevent children from becoming lead poisoned;
- WHEREAS, Childhood lead poisoning can also be prevented by encouraging renovators and contractors to follow lead-safe work practices that prevent the spread of lead dust and paint chips when working on pre-1978 homes, child-care facilities, and schools;
- WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of all parents and the community to take the necessary precautions and provide a safe environment to help ensure a bright and healthy future for our children; and
- WHEREAS, The City of Garden Grove commends the Health Care Agency's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program staff for their coordinated efforts to increase community awareness about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention methods to promote healthy families in Orange County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Garden Grove does hereby declare the week of October 24 through October 30, 2021, as "Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week" and encourages all parents and caregivers of children under the age of six years to ask their child's medical provider about their risk for lead poisoning and if a blood lead test is needed; and encourages housing renovators and contractors to follow lead-safe work practices.

October 12, 2021