

# MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Free Lead Screening

Erie, PA — Free lead screening is available for kids 5 years and younger and if you are pregnant on Nov. 2, 2023 at two locations in Erie.

- 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Blasco Memorial Library, 130 E. Front St.
- 3-5 p.m., Erie County Department of Health, 606 West Second St.

Health educators will be there to answer questions and provide information. Games, snacks and giveaways will be available. This screening is organized by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie and the Erie County Department of Health.

“We want to raise awareness to reduce childhood exposure to lead,” said Holly Cook, Director of Program Administration of the Redevelopment Authority.

### Dangers of lead on children

Lead is toxic and can seriously harm the health of young children because their bodies are still developing, including babies even before they are born. When lead is breathed in or swallowed, it can result in damage to the brain and nervous system, which leads to heart and/or kidney problems, slow or delayed speech and motor skills, behavioral issues and difficulty learning.

A child with lead poisoning may not have visible signs or symptoms. A blood test is the best way to find out if a child has lead poisoning. Test results can help determine appropriate care.

### Where lead can be found

Lead is commonly found in apartments and single-family homes, in both private and public housing. It can be found in the interior and exterior of homes, including the soil around the home, which can pick up lead from exterior paint or other sources.

“According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 87% of homes built before 1940 and 24% of homes built between 1960-1978 contain lead-based paint. Many of the oldest homes in Erie County were built during these times and earlier, which makes it strongly probable that they once or may still contain lead-based paint,” said Cook.

For more information, call 814-870-1540 or visit [redeveloperie.org](http://redeveloperie.org).

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