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PRESS RELEASE

TO: Marquette County Media
FROM: Dr. Terry Frankovich, Medical Director
DATE: October 17, 2017
SUBJECT: National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 22-28

Nearly half a million children living in the United States have elevated blood lead levels that may cause significant damage to their health, estimates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Major sources of lead exposure to U.S. children include lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust in older, deteriorating buildings. Children can also be exposed to lead from additional sources including contaminated drinking water, take-home exposures from a workplace, and lead in soil.

To increase the awareness of the childhood lead poisoning prevention, the Marquette County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are participating in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) October 22-28. This year's NLPPW theme, "Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future," underscores the importance of getting your home tested, getting your child tested, and getting the facts. Parents can reduce a child's exposure to lead in many ways. Here are some simple things you can do to help protect your family:

1. Get the facts. Find out about the hazards of lead. Many homes built before 1978 have lead-based paint. Adults and children can get lead into their bodies by breathing in lead dust or by swallowing paint chips, foods, or soil that contains lead.
2. Get your home tested. Find out how to minimize risks of lead exposure by hiring a certified professional to test older (pre-1978) homes for lead.
3. Get your child tested. A simple blood test can detect lead. Consult your doctor for advice on testing your children.

During NLPPW and every week, the Marquette County Health Department offers lead testing and advice on how to reduce your family's exposure to lead.

For more information, contact the Marquette County Health Department at 906-475-7844 or visit www.mqthealth.org.

Other sources for information:

-MDHHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program at 517-335-8350 www.michigan.gov/lead

-MDHHS Lead Safe Home Program at 866-691-5323 www.michigan.gov/leadsafe, or call

1-800-424-LEAD.