

Activities

- Delaware Lead Screening Program

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act is a Delaware statute that requires all healthcare providers to order screening for children at or around 12 months of age. "Child care facilities, public and private nursery schools, preschools and kindergartens shall require screening for lead poisoning for admission or continued enrollment." The Delaware Department of Public Health requires this screening to be a blood lead test.

School Nurse Role

Schools are responsible for informing parents of the lead screening mandate at the time of registration for PreK or Kindergarten. Documentation that a blood lead test was completed must be on file and in the student electronic health record. Results of the test are not required although encouraged. School nurses should work with families of children with known high blood levels to assure follow-up and appropriate treatment. Families failing to provide documentation should be notified early in the school year. Per the statute, children without documentation will be excluded from school after 60 days of the date of enrollment. Religious exemptions are acceptable. A sample affidavit follows.

In 1995, legislation was passed requiring lead exposure. Its goal is the foundation of today's program: to assure all Delaware children have reduced exposure to lead and receive early identification.

Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Lead

School Health Alert. (2016). Lead Poisoning. In *2016 School Nurse Resource Manual*, pp. 232-234. Nashville, TN: School Health Alert.

Affidavit of Religious Belief for Lead Exemption

SAMPLE

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act states "for every child born on or after March 1, 1995, and who has reached the age of 12 months, child care facilities and public and private nursery schools, preschools and kindergartens shall require screening for lead poisoning for admission or continued enrollment; except in the case of enrollment in kindergarten, such testing may be done within 60 calendar days of the date of enrollment. A statement shall be provided from the child's primary health care provider that the child has been screened for lead poisoning or in lieu thereof a certificate signed by the parent or guardian stating that the screening is contrary to that person's religious beliefs."

The following Affidavit is provided as a template, but another form can be used. Notarization is not required.

STATE OF DELAWARE

_____ COUNTY

(I) (We) (am) (are) the (parent(s)) (legal guardian(s)) (Relative Caregiver(s)) of

Name of Child

(I) (We) hereby (swear) (affirm) that (I) (we) subscribe to a belief in a relation to a Supreme Being involving duties superior to those arising from any human relation.

(I) (We) further (swear) (affirm) that our belief is sincere and meaningful and occupies a place in (my) (our) life parallel to that filled by the orthodox belief in God.

This belief is not a political, sociological or philosophical view of a merely personal moral code.

This belief causes (me) (us) to request an exemption from the lead screening for

Name of Child

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s)