

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 13, 2020

Proclaiming National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is observed annually to raise awareness about lead poisoning and the dangers of childhood exposure to lead in our communities. It serves as an opportunity to bring together individuals, organizations, health care providers, government entities, to highlight the important role that everyone plays in preventing lead poisoning and reducing exposure to lead among children.

Childhood lead exposure can follow children throughout their lives. Children exposed to lead may not show any detectable symptoms for years although lead can be found in many of our homes, most commonly as paint chips or dust settling on surfaces accessible to young children. Because many children never look “sick,” lead exposure can go unaddressed for years. There is no safe level of lead exposure – for anyone. Even small amounts of lead can affect a child’s early development, impacting attention span and academic achievement. Pregnant women exposed to lead may experience miscarriage or preterm labor, with its own risks of low birth weight and nervous system

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damage.

In Los Angeles County, thousands of children are found to have elevated blood lead levels each year.

The earlier lead exposure is identified, the earlier lead poisoning prevention measures can be taken. The only way to catch lead exposure before it becomes lead poisoning is through a simple blood lead test, which is available for free to all Los Angeles County residents enrolled in Medi-Cal. Angelenos can also reach out to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program by phone or online for more information on free or low cost testing sites, sources and dangers of lead, and how to prevent lead exposure for our vulnerable populations.

By supporting National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week throughout Los Angeles County, we affirm our commitment to working together to reduce lead exposure and protect our at-risk communities.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the week of October 25-31, 2020 as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week and encourage all County residents to learn about the dangers of lead exposure, common home and work sources of lead, and the steps we can all take to protect our children from lead poisoning.

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