



Indiana
Department
of
Health



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor
Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 11, 2022
To: Executive Board
Indiana Department of Health
From: Shirley Payne, PhD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Public Health Protection Commission
Subject: Emergency Elevated Blood Lead Level Rule

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) requests the Executive Board, at the Board's May 11th, 2022, meeting, to emergency adopt an elevated blood lead level rule. The rule updates definitions to lower the standard for an elevated blood lead level to match the CDC's recommended levels. Lowering the standard underscores lead's danger as a neurotoxin and provides services to families of children from lead exposure.

IDOH is seeking to change the reference level for an elevated blood lead level (EBLL) to protect Hoosier children and to align with the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended threshold for case management. Changing the reference EBLL from ten micrograms per deciliter to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter will ensure families are able to take appropriate action to protect their kids at low levels from 3.5-4.9. At levels five (5) and above, this change will allow the state to provide children in danger from lead exposure with case management services from local health departments.

The adoption of this emergency rule will allow for this safety measure to be enacted while the permanent rule promulgation is underway. The emergency rule will allow the lower blood lead level to be implemented on July 1, 2022, when funding is available through P.L. 110-2021 (HEA 1007). The Notice of Intent to Adopt the permanent rule was published April 6, 2022, and it is anticipated that the permanent rule will take effect in December 2022.

To **promote, protect, and improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.