



EXECUTIVE ORDER #36

Relating to Measures to Abate and Prevent Lead Exposure

WHEREAS, lead exposure and poisoning are serious public health threats to the State of Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services has reported that children with lead poisoning have been identified in every county in Wisconsin. Since 1996, more than 220,000 children have been identified as having dangerous amounts of lead in their body;

WHEREAS, a 2016 report by the Department of Health Services found that in counties across the state, from Milwaukee and Sheboygan to Lafayette and Marquette, well over 5 percent of children tested were dangerously exposed to lead;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are still more than 176,000 lead service lines providing contaminated drinking water to homes, schools, and childcare facilities across Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are more than 350,000 older homes in Wisconsin with existing lead paint hazards;

WHEREAS, childhood lead poisoning is an environmental disease, whose prevention and treatment requires collaboration of families, property owners, housing programs, and private and public health professionals;

WHEREAS, lead can adversely affect almost every organ and system in the human body, and can cause cognitive delays, behavior and learning problems, slowed growth, and, in some cases, seizures, coma, and death;

WHEREAS, prevention is the most important step that parents, healthcare professionals, and others can take to protect from lead exposure, especially for children;

WHEREAS, public health is central in addressing all components of this childhood disease, including prevention of exposure, treatment, and surveillance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby order the following:

1. Direct the Department of Health Services to designate an individual at the department to serve as the coordinator of the state's efforts to address lead poisoning prevention, treatment, removal, abatement, and surveillance. The individual shall collaborate across state agencies and within the department, including with the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, to ensure a robust and comprehensive response.
2. Direct all cabinet agencies, under the leadership of the Department of Health Services' designated lead coordinator, to use their respective areas of expertise to address Wisconsin's lead crisis through a multi-pronged approach.
3. Direct the Department of Health Services to provide all necessary staffing and resources to facilitate cross-departmental efforts to implement solutions and to identify ways to promote collaboration among local health departments and community organizations to accelerate more robust lead prevention, treatment, removal, abatement, and surveillance efforts.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done in the City of Kenosha this 29th Day of July in the year of two thousand nineteen.



TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State