



GOVERNOR MURPHY'S STATEWIDE PLAN TO ADDRESS LEAD EXPOSURE IN NEW JERSEY

Governor Phil Murphy proposes a comprehensive statewide strategy to address lead-based paint, lead service lines and plumbing, and contaminated soil to protect all New Jerseyans from lead exposure. This builds upon current efforts to create a whole-of-government approach to this broad-based challenge.

FINANCING

Governor Murphy proposes a \$500 million bond to support the replacement of lead service lines and remediation of lead-based paint in homes across New Jersey. He also supports efforts to allow water utilities to mitigate the cost of lead service line replacement for homeowners.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to increase transparency and ensure that all necessary locations are tested for lead within the appropriate timeframes, the Departments of Children and Families, Community Affairs, Education, Environmental Protection, Health, and Human Services will collaborate to establish a publicly available, comprehensive lead testing strategy that addresses housing, schools, and daycare facilities. The strategy will address necessary disclosures and notifications for residents, as well as enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with testing, disclosure, notification, remediation, and abatement requirements.

INVENTORIES

Infrastructure records across the state are incomplete and inaccurate, and the State does not have the exact number and locations of homes with lead paint, plumbing, and infrastructure. The data is needed in order to address the full scope of the problem and to support notification and disclosure efforts to the public.

The Department of Environmental Protection will improve the statewide inventory of lead service lines, and the Department of Community Affairs will reinstate the Lead-Safe Housing Registry, both in an effort to understand the true scope and distribution of lead contamination throughout the state.

SCHOOLS

As Governor Murphy announced on October 7, 2019, the Department of Education will develop new regulations to accelerate its current lead-testing protocol. All New Jersey public schools will be required to test for lead in water every three years and share the testing results with DOE, where they will be publicly shared in a state-maintained database. DOE will also increase enforcement mechanisms to hold schools accountable and ensure compliance. In addition, the Administration will prioritize funding from the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act to reduce lead exposure in schools.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Early detection and intervention are the most effective strategies to combat lead exposure. The State will undertake a coordinated multi-pronged public health strategy led by the Departments of Health, Human Services, and Children and Families to strengthen data and reporting infrastructure, support prevention efforts including targeted education and outreach efforts, and continue to support the needs of children impacted by lead through comprehensive interventions and supports.

The Administration's work to strengthen data and reporting infrastructure will support efforts for more targeted outreach, prevention efforts, and identification of high-risk populations. The Administration will also work to better coordinate and ensure access to services and supports across programs for children in need. Further, the departments will work to include blood lead level testing as a requirement for entry into public child care, preschool, and schools.

HOUSING

Housing is the primary source for lead exposure, and 80 percent of lead poisoning cases are caused by lead-based paint in homes built before 1978.

The Governor supports legislation to create a "Lead-Safe" certificate program requiring inspection and disclosure of lead hazards at point of sale and inspection and remediation for all rental homes that were built before 1978.

Working with other state agencies, the Department of Environmental Protection will develop a plan to replace all lead service lines across New Jersey within 10 years.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In order to pursue required upgrades and improvements to the state's water infrastructure, it is imperative that our workforce is trained and certified in remediation and maintenance. At least one-third of water and wastewater operators are at or near retirement age. Home inspectors and renovators must receive additional training and certification to address lead issues. As of August 2019, there were only 60 certified lead evaluation contractors and 46 contractor certified lead abatement contractors in New Jersey.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and the Department of Education will develop workforce training and career outreach programs to high schools, vocational-technical schools, and community colleges to recruit younger generations into the trades. Additionally, the Departments will consider how licensing requirements can better align with other neighboring states.