



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

April 19, 2016

The Honorable Chris Taylor
State Representative
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison WI 53708

Dear Representative Taylor:

Thank you for your letter regarding childhood lead poisoning in Wisconsin.

In your letter you asked why the Department of Health Services has not yet promulgated a rule setting a blood lead standard in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) standard. The Department has considered this issue since the CDC created its reference value in 2012.

Along with establishing the reference value in 2012, CDC recommended that a property investigation and lead hazard remediation occur for all children at or above the reference value. Lowering the blood lead level to the CDC standard would dramatically increase financial needs of Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) as they investigate and manage cases of childhood lead exposure. We continue to explore options to assist local health departments with this responsibility.

Since the CDC reference value was established in 2012 the Department has consistently encouraged LPHAs to implement the new recommendations to the extent they were able. Many have increased their outreach and education to families with children at lower blood lead levels. Thank you for your concerns and interest regarding this important public health issue.

Sincerely,


Kitty Rhoades
Secretary