

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Information for Childcare Facilities: Lead-Safe Policies and Programs September 2021

#### City of Lancaster, PA

#### **What are the major changes to the requirements for childcare facilities?**

The proposed change is that all child care facilities will be required to maintain lead-safe certification and provide certification to the City every two years.

#### FAQs for Childcare facility owners

- The approximate cost will be \$250 if the clearance passes.
- Process for remediation if lead hazards are identified in your childcare facility.
- What if I do not comply?
- Why every two years?

#### **Why expand the lead safety ordinance to include childcare facilities?**

- We believe all children have the right to a safe and healthy childcare facility.
- We know that Lancaster City continues to be among the top ten cities in Pennsylvania with the highest rates of childhood lead poisoning.
- Exposure to lead, especially with children under the age of six, can seriously harm a child's health, including damage to the brain and nervous system.
- We have an unprecedented opportunity to address lead poisoning in Lancaster City through expanded funding. More than \$11 million in HUD funds have been awarded to mitigate lead hazards in the City, and Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health has allocated \$50 million to mitigate lead hazards in homes across Lancaster County.

#### **When will these changes be implemented, if approved?**

If approved, these changes will go into effect in 2023. Owners of childcare facilities will be required to provide proof of lead-safe certification sometime between January and June 2023.

#### **How do I obtain a lead-safe certificate for my property?**

To test and certify a residential property as lead-safe, an EPA licensed dust sampling technician and/or a PA licensed risk assessor must collect samples to evaluate the presence of lead hazards. Based on the findings, the lead-safe certification template is filled out by the licensed technician/risk assessor and submitted to the City's Bureau of Health along with the clearance report, to review and approve the certification. A valid certification must be on file at the time of license renewal. The completed certificate and clearance report may be provided with a new license application. If lead hazards are present and clearance was not received, remediation must be performed by an EPA licensed RRP contractor.

#### **What companies perform lead risk assessments?**

- You can find a list of Certified Inspection, Risk Assessment, and Abatement Firms on the website for the Environmental Protection Agency.

<https://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/pub/index.cfm?do=main.firmSearchAbatement>

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#### **For how long are lead-safe certifications valid?**

- Lead-safe certificates are valid for 2 years.
- Disturbed paint through wear and tear in childcare facilities is common. At two-year intervals, the testing will identify any disturbed paint so that when identified at this two-year interval, may be remediated to keep the facility lead safe.

#### **How do I obtain a lead-safe certificate for my property?**

- To test and certify a childcare facility as lead-safe, an EPA licensed Dust Sampling Technician, Lead inspector and/or a PA Risk Assessor must collect samples to evaluate the presence of lead hazards. Based on the test results, the lead-safe certificate template is filled out by the Lead Dust Sampling Technician, Lead inspector and/or a PA Risk Assessor submitted to the City's Bureau of Health along with all required EPA/HUD documentation, to review and approve the certification. A valid certification must be on file with the childcare facility and posted in a conspicuous location in the childcare facility along with any other required documentation.
- If lead hazards are identified, they must be remediated by an EPA licensed RRP contractor before a lead-safe certificate is provided.

#### **How do I pay for the cost of remediation if lead hazards are identified?**

- The City offers several programs aimed at promoting lead-safe and healthy housing. This includes the Lead Hazard Control Program, Healthy Homes Program, and the Critical Repair Program. Funded by HUD, these programs provide grants and loans to low to moderate income households to remediate lead hazards and any other component(s) to improve the health and safety of the childcare facility. <https://www.cityoflanasterpa.com/lead/>
- Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health offers a grant for lead remediation. Please see their website for more information and to see if you qualify: <https://www.lancastergeneralhealth.org/services-and-treatments/community-health/community-programs/lead-free-families#:~:text=With%20a%20%2450%20million%20initial,a%20healthier%20place%20for%20all>