

The story behind all those medical documents

Brought to you by your school nurse



Why?



Why does the Maryland State Department of Education and the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene want these forms submitted when entering the public school system?

Record of Physical Examination

“The Physical”

- Opportunity to establish a relationship with a healthcare provider who can advocate and support your child’s health;
- Medical needs can be assessed;
- Connect families with community resources

Dental Report

“More than **50 million hours** are lost annually because of oral health problems which affect children’s performance at school and success in later life.” (Kwan, et al., 2005, p.677)

Oral disease can lead to

- pain,
- tooth loss,
- what foods your child can eat, and
- poor self image

The blood-lead certificate



The effects of lead poisoning are irreversible.

“Early childhood lead exposure can lead to a wide range of problems in children...(including) cognitive impairment and behavioral problems” (Zhang, et al., 2013, p. e72)

In 2016, the CDC found that 500,000 children ages 1-5 tested at or above the reference level of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$.

Signs & Symptoms of lead poisoning

- Developmental delay
- Learning difficulties
- Irritability
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Sluggishness and fatigue
- PICA (eating things that aren't food like paint chips, dirt)
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Constipation
- Hearing loss
- Seizures

The journey

If you think you are too small to
make a difference, try sleeping
with a mosquito.

— Dalai Lama

“All students
can learn
and succeed,
but not
on the same
day in the
same way.”

William G. Spady

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health and Academics

https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/health_and_academics/index.htm

Health Impact Project. (2017). 10 policies to prevent and respond to childhood lead exposure.

https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2017/08/hip_childhood_lead_poisoning_report.pdf

Mayo Clinic. (2020). Lead poisoning.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/lead-poisoning/symptoms-causes/syc-20354717>

Zhang, N., Baker, H. W., Tufts, M., Raymond, R. E., Salibu, H., & Elliott, M. R. (2013). Early

childhood lead exposure and academic achievement: Evidence from Detroit Public

Schools, 2008-2010. *American Journal of Public Health*, 103(3), e72. <https://doi->

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