



Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan Providers

From: Lupe González, PhD, MPH
Director of Health Education, Cultural and Linguistics Services

Re: **National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**

Date: October 23, 2019

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) is working with Ventura County Public Health to increase awareness of lead poisoning and the many ways lead exposure affects individuals, especially young children.

October 20-26 is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW). The annual event's purpose is to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness and to reduce childhood exposure to lead. This year's theme is: **"Dust and dirt with lead can hurt. Keep kids away from lead where they play."**

State laws and regulations require all health care providers to inform parents and guardians about:

- The risks and effects of childhood lead exposure.
- The requirement that children enrolled in Medi-Cal must receive blood lead tests.
- The requirement that children not enrolled in Medi-Cal and are at risk of lead exposure must receive blood lead tests.

For more information, visit the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch [website](#).

Additional Resources

- [CDPH's 2019 "Standard of Care Guidelines of Childhood Lead Poisoning for California Health Care Providers"](#)
- [The Ventura County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#) also offers information and tips.