



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

LUCILLE E. DAVY  
*Commissioner*

### **Broadcast #5**

October 20, 2008

TO: District Superintendents  
Charter School Leaders  
Nonpublic School Directors

FROM: Gerald J. Vernotica  
Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Field Services

TOTAL PAGES: 5 pgs. (2 documents)  
This memo (3 pgs.)  
Flyer (2 pgs. – PDF document)

SUBJECT: National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

DISTRIBUTE TO: Principals  
Other staff as appropriate

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LUCILLE E. DAVY  
*Commissioner*

October 17, 2008

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
Nonpublic School Administrators  
School Principals

FROM: Lucille E. Davy  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

New Jersey's childhood lead poisoning problem is among the worst in the nation. Approximately two million houses in the state were constructed prior to the national ban on the sale of lead-based paint in 1978, and many children are, therefore, potentially exposed to dangerous levels of lead. Children become lead poisoned by ingesting lead-based paint chips, dirt containing lead, or food from improperly glazed pottery. Lead is also found in dust, water, and, as recent news reports are revealing, toys.

Lead poisoning can cause developmental disabilities, behavioral problems, decreased IQ, and other neurological impairments that affect a child's ability to learn. As it is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, I would like us to take the opportunity to educate parents about lead poisoning. Attached you will find a hand-out, created by the Department of Health and Senior Services, entitled "An Important Message About Lead Poisoning From Your Child's School." This hand-out focuses on the effects of lead poisoning on the school-aged child and recommends actions for schools and parents to take to better serve a lead poisoned child and his/her learning needs. Please place your school name at the top and send home with or mail to every school child within the next two months. This hand-out should also be distributed to teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, and nurses.

Finally, flyers in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Hindi, Arabic, Portuguese, and Creole, which describe the dangers of lead poisoning and how to get children tested can be downloaded from [http://www.state.nj.us/publicadvocate/public/issues/lead\\_main.html](http://www.state.nj.us/publicadvocate/public/issues/lead_main.html).

Thank you for your continued effort to help prevent lead poisoning and respond effectively to the needs of lead poisoned children.

LED/SM/BS/pp:leaddoeltr4

Attachment

c: Willa Spicer

John Hart

Senior Staff

Susan Martz

Executive County Superintendents

Garden State Coalition of Schools

LEE Group

Non Public Advisory Council