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PA LEAD-FREE PROMISE PROJECT RECOGNIZES YEADON BOROUGH ON LEAD PREVENTION HOUSING ORDINANCE

Yeadon Ranks 4th in Municipalities in Delaware County with Highest Number of Children Testing Positive for Lead

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YEADON, PA — Only 23% of children ages 0-71 months are tested for lead poisoning in Delaware County, yet of those tested, Yeadon Borough ranks 4th in Delaware County municipalities for the highest number of children to test positive.

Earlier this year, Yeadon Borough prioritized the long-term safety of their children by passing a lead prevention housing ordinance, which requires lead paint inspections.

“Yeadon knows its children and their long-term safety are a high priority when creating new policies and enforcing existing policies,” said Yeadon Mayor Rohan Hepkins. “We have also learned over the years while working with community partners, that addressing lead poisoning through inspections is an easy, common sense and cost-effective way to help protect the vulnerable populations.”

The Lead-Free Promise Project, a growing coalition of nearly 80 statewide organizations dedicated to ending lead paint poisoning in Pennsylvania, recognized the Borough for the passage of the ordinance during the quarterly Mayor’s Forum.

“Yeadon Borough has taken a huge step towards protecting its children by passing this ordinance, which will begin to address the lead found in local housing and eliminate further exposure,” said Rosemarie Halt, Co-chair of the Pennsylvania Lead-Free Promise Project. “Time and time again as I have worked on childhood lead poisoning over the years, I have heard from families devastated by having a lead poisoned child. I repeatedly hear that if they had only known about lead they would have had their child tested and had their home tested. They are angry and frustrated that their child will suffer from something that was totally preventable.”

Yeadon is the third municipality in Delaware County to pass a lead ordinance. The others include East Lansdowne (2022) and the City of Chester (2023).

"The Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) is thrilled that Yeadon Borough has stepped up in the fight to protect one of Delaware County's most important treasures, our children," said Delaware County Health Department Director Lora Siegmann Werner. "DCHD urges municipal officials across the county to follow the actions of Yeadon, the City of Chester, and East Lansdowne's by passing similar lead safety ordinances."

Pennsylvania continues to rank high for a wrong reason by having the second largest number of children who test positive for lead poisoning each year among all states. Effects of lead poisoning, an invisible threat, can rob children of their future by causing irreversible brain and nervous system damage, learning difficulties, and behavior problems — and there are not nearly enough resources to help suffering families.

Lead-Free Promise Project launched its nearly 80-organization coalition in 2021 with the goal of removing lead paint-based hazards from homes and ensuring all children are screened for lead poisoning as part of a comprehensive wellness exam. Learn more at <https://paleadfree.org/>.

LFPP is part of ThrivingPa.org, a nonpartisan, statewide campaign that seeks to improve the quality of and increase equitable access to a coordinated system of health supports, including access to comprehensive perinatal health services, children's health insurance, nutrition supports and lead screening and abatement.

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