

**Resolution No. 748-2019**

**Council Members:** Griffin, Kelley, McCormack and Mayor Jackson

**An emergency resolution calling upon health organizations including hospitals and providers of Medicaid services to guarantee that Cleveland-area infants and children under age six are screened and tested for lead to help prevent lead poisoning.**

**WHEREAS**, Ohio law requires all healthcare providers to administer blood lead tests to children at age 1 and 2, or up to age 6 if no previous test has been completed based on whether the child is on Medicaid, lives in a high-risk ZIP code, or has certain other risk factors; and

**WHEREAS**, not enough Ohio children meeting these criteria are tested as required by law: in 2016-17, of the children receiving Medicaid in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and 11 inner-ring suburban school districts, 90% were tested at least once between birth and kindergarten entry; 50% were tested at age one year; 34.6% were tested at age 2; and 21.5% were tested at both ages 1 and 2; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council understands that it is most important to first test lead blood levels in children early - between ages one and 2 – and often, through age 6; and

**WHEREAS**, area hospital systems, medical facilities and health care providers must be the driving force in providing adequate screening and testing services that are easily accessible and readily available to Cleveland-area children and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, area health organizations including hospitals and providers of Medicaid services must make concerted efforts to join with the Department of Public Health and the Healthy Homes Advisory Council to provide screening and testing of young children where they are most likely to be – including at schools, area libraries, recreation centers, and through area community programs; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council encourages that a communication strategy be developed between the City and outside entities, including Cleveland public and private schools, to provide lead poisoning prevention education and further encourages the Department of Health continue to coordinate with the City's recreation centers and other programs operated or funded by the City to provide lead poisoning prevention information, lead screening and referrals for lead testing; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council encourages the Department of Public Health to establish and make public a list of organizations that provide on-site and/or mobile screening, testing or testing referrals; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council joins the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition in urging the State of Ohio to establish a better detailed, timely and enforceable database of lead testing that includes city, county and state records; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:**

**Section 1.** That this Council calls upon health organizations including hospitals and providers of Medicaid services to guarantee that Cleveland-area infants and children under age six are screened and tested for lead to help prevent lead poisoning.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk is directed to forward copies of this resolution to representatives from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Department of Development, Case Western Reserve University, Environmental Health Watch, United Way of Greater Cleveland, the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the MetroHealth System, Sisters of Charity Health System, University Hospitals, UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

**Section 3.** That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

**Adopted July 24, 2019.**

**Effective July 26, 2019.**