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Name of Head of Household

**WATCH OUT FOR LEAD POISONING!**

There is a possibility that housing constructed before 1978 may contain lead based paint. Children get lead poisoning when they eat bits of paint that contain lead. If a child eats enough lead paint, his brain will be damaged. The child may become mentally retarded or even die.

- If your child is under six years of age and you live in a house built prior to 1978, we strongly recommend that you contact a doctor or local health clinic to have your child screened for lead in the blood.
- If your child is under six and had been found to have an elevated lead blood level, you should notify MBHP at once, so your unit may be tested for lead based paint.
- If the unit you live in or want to live in was built before 1978, ask the landlord if it has been tested for lead based paint.

Older houses and apartments often have layers of lead paint on the walls, ceilings, and woodwork. Outdoors, lead paints and primers may have been used in many places, such as on walls, fences, porches, and fire escapes. When the paint chips off or when the plaster breaks, there is real danger for babies and young children.

If you have seen your child putting pieces of paint or plaster in his mouth, you should take him to a doctor, clinic, or hospital as soon as you can. In the beginning stages of lead poisoning, a child may not seem really sick. Do not wait for signs of poisoning. Of course, a child might eat paint chips or chew on a painted railing or window sill, while parents aren't around. Has your child been especially cranky? Is he eating very little? Does he throw up or have stomach aches often? These could be signs of lead poisoning. Take him to a doctor's office or to a clinic.

Be sure to tell the rest of your family and people who sit for you about the danger of lead poisoning. Look at your walls and ceilings and woodwork. Are there places where the paint is peeling? If so, notify MBHP so that an inspection can be scheduled. Do not try to remove the paint from the walls, ceilings, and woodwork.

**IF YOUR UNIT WAS BUILT PRIOR TO 1978 AND IS OCCUPIED BY A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF SIX:**

- The Housing Quality Standards Inspector (HQS) must inspect your unit for defective paint surfaces (interior and exterior surfaces which are cracking, scaling, peeling, chipping or loose).
- If any defective areas are found, the owner will be instructed to treat the area.

**IF YOUR UNIT WAS BUILT PRIOR TO 1978 AND A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF SIX IS CONFIRMED TO HAVE AN ELEVATED BLOOD LEVEL (ebl):**

- Your unit must be tested for lead based paint.

**IF THE TEST REVEALS LEAD BASED PAINT IN THE UNIT ABOVE ACCEPTABLE LEVELS**

- The owner must comply with the Department of Public Health regulations governing lead paint removal.

Chewable surfaces include any protruding, painted surface up to five feet from the floor or ground that is readily accessible to children under the age of six, such as corners and window sills. If you want to know more about how to keep your child safe from lead poisoning, talk to your doctor, public health nurse, or social worker at the clinic or health department.

I have received a copy of Watch Out For Lead Poisoning

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Date

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Signature of Head of Household