

Taylor Creek Youth Organization

Taylor Creek Youth Organization (TCYO) is a non-profit sports organization located in Hamilton County's Whitewater Township. The organization's sports complex, located at 8015 Furlong Rd., provides baseball, softball and soccer fields. In addition, the complex hosts a weekly "turkeyshoot" during the winter months.

The turkey shoot has introduced lead and arsenic onto some of the fields within the complex. The soil on Field 5 was found to be contaminated with lead and arsenic. Lead and arsenic were not found on field 7, but the field will continue to be monitored because of its proximity to Field 5.



Was I or my Child Exposed to Lead or Arsenic?

Exposed means that you have swallowed (ingested) or breathed in (inhaled) a chemical. Even though lead and arsenic were found on this field, you may not have been exposed. The most common exposure to contaminated soil comes from accidentally swallowing soil through dirty hands and hand-to-mouth behavior. Contaminated soil can also be tracked into your home on your shoes and clothes and inhaled in house dust.

The only way to know if there is a higher than usual amount of lead or arsenic in your body is through medical tests. Whether or not there may be a health effect from exposure to these metals depends on many things, including how much you were exposed to, how long you were exposed, and your age, lifestyle, and general health.

Where can I get More Information?

Hamilton County Public Health

250 William Howard Taft Rd. 2nd Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45219
Phone: 513-946-7879 Web: HCPH.org

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Phone: 1-800-232-4636
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>

US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Region 5 Phone: 312-353-2000
Lead Hotline Phone: 1-800-424-LEAD [5323]
<https://www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead>

Ohio Department of Health

246 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 1-877-LEADSAFE [532-3723] or 614-728-4115

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Southwest District Office

401 East Fifth Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402
Phone: (937) 285-6357

The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU)

3430 Burnet Ave., 2nd Floor
Cincinnati OH 45229
Phone: 513-803-3688
Email: environmentalhealth@cchmc.org



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Lead & Arsenic

Taylor Creek Youth Organization

People can be exposed to lead and arsenic by breathing air that is contaminated with arsenic or lead or eating small amounts of soil, dust, or lead-based paint by accident.

The following are frequently asked questions compiled by Hamilton County Public Health to help you understand lead and arsenic and what this means for your health.



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HCPH.org

What is Lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring, bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of it comes from human activities, including burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing.

Lead has many different uses. It is used in the production of batteries, ammunition, metal products, solder, and pipes. Because of health concerns, the use of lead in paints, ceramic products, caulking, and pipe solder has been dramatically reduced in recent years.

How Can Lead Affect Health?

The effects of lead are the same whether it enters the body through breathing or swallowing. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. The main target for lead is the brain and nervous system, both in adults and children.

Exposure to lead is more dangerous for young children and unborn babies who are exposed to lead through their mothers. A child who swallows large amounts of lead may have decreased oxygen in their blood (anemia), severe stomachache, muscle weakness, or brain damage. If a child swallows smaller amounts of lead, much less severe effects on blood and brain function may occur. Even at very low levels, lead can affect a child's mental and physical growth. Some of these effects may continue beyond childhood.

Is There a Medical Test to Determine Exposure to Lead?

A blood test is available to measure the amount of lead in blood and to estimate the amount of recent exposure to lead. Blood tests are commonly used to screen children for lead poisoning. A lead test using a blood sample taken from a vein is more accurate than a finger prick blood test. A blood test is the only way to tell if your child has lead poisoning.

The result of a blood lead test can help determine whether you or your child has come into contact with higher than expected levels of lead. A blood test can't tell you where the lead came from or whether any lead in your body will affect your health.

What is Arsenic?

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in soil and minerals, and is widely found in the earth's crust. Arsenic may enter the air, water, and land from wind-blown dust, runoff, and leaching. At Taylor Creek Youth Organization, arsenic came from ammunition that was used over a period of time.

How can Arsenic Affect Health?

Swallowing high levels of arsenic over a short time may result in nausea and vomiting, decreased oxygen in the blood (anemia), decreased production of blood cells, abnormal heart beat, damage to blood vessels, and a sensation of "pins and needles" in hands and feet. Arsenic can increase the risk of getting cancer if you ingest a large amount over a long number of years.

Swallowing or breathing low levels of arsenic for a long time can cause a darkening of the skin and the appearance of small "corns" or "warts" on the palms, soles, and torso.

What can I do to Avoid Exposure to Lead and Arsenic in Soil?

- **Wash your hands with soap and water before eating and after playing outside.**
- If you're dirty from playing outside, change your clothes before going home or inside. Keep your clothes in a plastic bag until they are ready to be washed.
- Regularly clean toys and sports equipment.
- Take off your shoes before going in the house; keep them outside or by the door so dirt isn't tracked into the home.
- Eat a balanced diet with calcium, iron, and vitamin C. Your body absorbs less lead and arsenic when you have a balanced and nutritious diet.

If you have concerns about exposure to lead and/or arsenic, you should contact your doctor to discuss exposure and possible testing.

Is There a Medical Test to Determine Whether I've been Exposed to Arsenic?

There are tests available to measure arsenic in your blood, urine, hair, and fingernails. The urine test is the most reliable for very recent exposures (within the last few days). Tests on hair and fingernails can measure exposure to high levels of arsenic over the past 6-12 months.

These tests can determine if you have been exposed to above-average levels of arsenic. They can't tell you where the arsenic came from or predict whether the arsenic levels in your body will affect your health.