



Wisconsin Public Health Association
Wisconsin Association of Local Health
Departments and Boards



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Health Community Commends Governor Evers Order to Address Lead Crisis

(Kimberly, WI) – July 31, 2019 – The Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) commend Governor Tony Evers on signing Executive Order #36, which takes a significant step toward managing and solving Wisconsin’s lead crisis.

As Governor Evers identified in the executive order, Wisconsin faces dangerous levels of lead due to water service lines and paint in older homes. Over 176,000 lead service lines still provide water to homes and schools, and it is estimated that more than 350,000 older homes throughout the state may be contaminated with lead paint.

Exposure to lead is especially dangerous to children. Lead poisoning can negatively affect nearly every organ in a child’s body. It is essential that the state address this serious public health crisis.

When WPHA and WALHDAB leaders met last year to develop a 2019-2020 legislative agenda, eliminating and abating lead from paint, soil, and pipes was one of our highest shared priorities. It is an issue that must be dealt with effectively and efficiently.

By creating a new position at the Department of Health Services and dedicating staff to coordinating efforts between state agencies, public health officials, and medical professionals, Governor Evers has committed his administration to finding solutions to clean up our drinking water and homes.

WPHA and WALHDAB members look forward to working in coordination and collaboration with the Evers administration to solve this problem and thank him for his commitment to the issue.

Representing over 1,200 public health professionals statewide, WPHA and WALHDAB are dedicated to promoting and protecting public health in Wisconsin, which is vital to a healthy population, lower health care costs and a thriving economy.

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