

Exide Update

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) continues to work in communities impacted by Exide lead contamination in the following ways:

INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- 10 Health Promoters have been in the community from October to May, providing resources and answering questions regarding Exide, lead poisoning and offering referrals for FREE lead testing.
- Look for our blood lead testing in your neighborhood. We are providing FREE lead testing at community events and community sites in Commerce, East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, Bell, Huntington Park, and Maywood. In addition, look for our Exide Resource Centers at your local community sites like libraries and parks. For a calendar of events and locations, please visit us at: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/exide/>
- As of May 2019, Public Health completed 10 lead testing outreaches in Exide area communities. More lead testing outreaches are planned in your communities.

ADDRESS HEALTH CONCERNS

- **Are you worried about your child's development?** Your child may have health needs that affect growth, development and learning. It's important to have your child evaluated by a provider and receive specialized services to support your child's growth, development and learning. Don't wait. Act now. Early intervention can make a big difference in addressing your child's health needs.
Call your Public Health Nurse Vanessa Valenzuela at (323) 768-2541 for services and referrals.
- **Did you know that eating foods high in iron, calcium and vitamin C can help limit the amount of lead your body absorbs?** Your body takes in small amounts of lead from the environment, food and beverages every day. When you eat fruits, vegetables and foods that are high in iron, calcium and vitamin C every day in your meals and snacks, you can help your body decrease the amount of lead your body absorbs.

CONNECT WITH SCHOOLS

- Department of Public Health participated in an outreach event at Garfield High School, Division of Student Health and Human Services on April 1, 2019 to provide teachers, counselors and support staff with information on Exide, lead testing and lead poisoning education, services and resources including mental health, substance abuse, sexual transmitted infections, nutrition, access to health coverage, health centers and other resources.

ADVOCATE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CLEANUP PLAN

- The most common sources of lead poisoning in children are lead-based paint, lead contaminated soil and lead dust. Public Health has secured funding to reduce lead paint hazards in the communities that have been impacted by the Exide facility.
- Four different funding sources have been identified to maximize the number of homes that receive lead abatement services. Sources include funding from lead paint company lawsuits, a Southern California Gas Company lawsuit, and a grant from HUD.

Public Health does not charge for lead testing or clean-up services. If you are asked for money for clean-up services, please report this incident to our Public Health Nurse at (323) 768-2541.

Call Your Public Health Nurse:

For information on Exide, Free Lead Testing, Lead Poisoning and Upcoming Events call Vanessa Valenzuela (323)768-2541. Spanish speaking staff available.

By the Numbers:



5,366 Blood Tests



1,178 Homes Visited



6,938 Surveys Collected

RESOURCE CENTER & HEALTH CENTER

East Los Angeles Health Center:

133 N. Sunol Dr., Suite 150 Room 138
Los Angeles, 90063

Call (323) 768-2500 for FREE Blood Lead Testing
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8am-4pm (walk-ins welcome)

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

Edward Roybal Comprehensive Health Center
245 S. Fetterly Ave.

East Los Angeles, 90022

Call (323)362-1010 for FREE Lead Testing
Monday-Friday 7am to 4pm (walk-ins welcome)
Saturdays 8:30am-4:30pm (walk-ins welcome)

STAY CONNECTED: Do you want to join other advocates in your community, receive quarterly updates or receive text message alerts regarding our efforts?



spa7@ph.lacounty.gov



[@lapublichealth](https://www.facebook.com/lapublichealth)



<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/exide/>



[@lapublichealth](https://www.twitter.com/lapublichealth)

GET TO KNOW THE STAFF: Cindy Rojas with Exide Team at Southeast-Rio Vista YMCA



Cindy Rojas is a Health Promoter in the Department of Public Health. Ms. Rojas earned a double major in Social Welfare and Chicano Studies. She has been involved in the Exide project since December 2016. Ms. Rojas has worked to ensure that residents are informed of current environmental conditions due to the Exide facility and the lead-soil contamination and has been part of the door-to-door community outreach. She helps residents affected by Exide address their concerns and provides health information and resources. Ms. Rojas continues to provide health education materials on free blood testing, soil testing, and lead based paint resources affiliated with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She also conducts community surveys, assists with the lead testing mobile clinics, registration screening at health fairs and other community events.

For questions and concerns about soil testing, soil test results, and soil clean up, call

California Department of Toxic Substances Control Hotline: 1-844-225-3887

Website: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UpdateExideSuspension.cfm>