
**TRAIL
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HEALTH &
ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**



**NEWS RELEASE issued by THEC
2019 Children's Lead Levels are the Lowest to Date**

November 27, 2019

Trail, BC - The results from the 2019 children's blood lead testing clinic show that the average blood lead level for children aged six to 36 months in Trail and Rivervale is 2.6 micrograms per decilitre. This is a decrease from the 2018 average of 2.9. There continues to be a very high participation rate for this voluntary program.

The THEC is continuing its efforts to further reduce children's blood lead levels and is encouraged by the decline. We strive for continuous improvement working to deliver programs aimed to reduce exposure to lead in the community, and specifically exposure to children.

The THEC Air Quality Program, managed by Teck Trail Operations, continues to reduce lead in the environment through the comprehensive Fugitive Dust Reduction Program. The 2019 year-to-date average for lead in community air is 0.12 micrograms per cubic metre, the lowest level to date.

Quotes:

Mayor Lisa Pasin, City of Trail, Chair of the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee says, "I am encouraged to see the 2019 blood lead level has remained below 3 micrograms per decilitre for a second year in a row. This year, the Trail Area Health and Environment Program committed to reach more families, including an increased focus on soil testing and yard remediation. A recent community survey showed overwhelming support for this expanded work. As blood lead levels decrease in our community, we continue to review and evolve our programs to further reduce children's potential exposure to lead and strive toward lower blood lead levels in the future."

"The 2019 blood lead geomean is similar to that seen in 2018 and confirms a decrease in blood lead levels from previous years. Even low levels of blood lead are associated with negative impacts on children's health, so we will continue to work with THEC with the goal of further reducing exposure to lead and other environmental contaminants in the community." Dr. Karin Goodison, Medical Health Officer, Interior Health.

Dan Bouillon, Manager, Environment at Teck Trail Operations says, "Teck Trail Operations' ongoing focus on our comprehensive dust reduction program continues to reduce lead in the community. In recent years, major investments and operational improvements have been made to reduce emissions from Teck Trail Operations. Our year-to-date 2019 ambient air quality results are on track to be the lowest annual measures ever recorded."

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About the Trail Area Health & Environment Program

The Trail Area Health & Environment Program (THEP) has five main areas of activity: Family Health, Home & Garden, Air Quality, Parks and Wildlands, and Property Development. THEP promotes a healthy environment through a comprehensive integrated program that successfully improves air quality and children's blood lead levels, and promotes the health of the community. The Air Quality Program reduces smelter emissions and makes the largest contribution to achieving health and environment goals. All our activities work together to get the best results – lower exposure, lower health risks, and a healthier environment.

The Trail Area Health & Environment Committee (THEC), a subcommittee of Trail City Council, oversees the program. THEC includes collaboration with the local community, Teck, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Interior Health. Over the past three decades children's blood lead levels in Trail have reduced and air quality has improved. THEC's partnership has been recognized as an effective collaborative model for safeguarding health and the environment. In 2011, the program received a Premier's Innovation and Excellence Award for Partnership. For more information please visit www.thep.ca.

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