

EPA Begins Cleanup at IPS 26

American Lead Site
Indianapolis, Indiana

August 2018

For more information

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the American Lead cleanup, contact these EPA team members:

For technical questions

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For general questions

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For question regarding lead safety

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Beginning in late August, U.S. EPA will begin a time-critical removal of lead-contaminated soil at Indianapolis Public School 26 at 1301 East 16th Street, which is leased by The Oaks Academy. While conducting an Integrated Site Assessment, EPA found concentrations of lead in the soil above the residential action level. EPA sampled all grassy areas of IPS 26, and lead-contaminated soil was detected only in the areas by the front entrance. Since high lead levels pose an exposure risk to young children, EPA will address lead contamination at the school under its Emergency Removal program. Cleanup at the school is anticipated to begin the week of August 20th.

EPA workers will excavate contaminated soil from the school, and replace it with clean topsoil. The lead-contaminated soil will be transported to a nearby landfill where it can be properly managed. EPA will also perform continuous air monitoring for lead-contaminated dust during the cleanup, and water down the soil to reduce dust levels.

Students and staff can expect to see EPA crews, heavy equipment, and truck traffic at the school for several days. Heavy equipment and trucks may temporarily block roadways or alleys and could pose safety hazards to the public if safety guidelines are not followed. Students and staff should stay out of the work zone, which has been set up for the safety of the public and EPA crews. Students and staff should not walk up to heavy equipment while it is operating. If you have questions about the cleanup, please contact On-Scene Coordinator Shelly Lam.

Lead Facts

Although lead is naturally occurring, it is highly toxic. Exposure to lead can result in lower IQ scores in children and has been associated with behavioral and attention problems. Lead can cause kidney, liver, brain, and nerve damage. At very high levels, it can cause seizures and death.

Children ages 6 and younger are at high risk of lead poisoning because their brains are developing rapidly. Children also frequently place objects in their mouths that could be tainted by lead dust.

Since the signs of lead poisoning are not easy to spot, the only way to know if you or your child have been exposed to lead is with a simple blood test. For information on blood-lead testing, contact your doctor or the **Marion County Health Department at 317-221-2211**.