

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWSRELEASE

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'How To' Video Aids HEPA Vac Users "In-House Production Provides Instructions to Remove Lead"

County Executive Anthony Picente said Oneida County residents who get the free loan of a HEPA Vacuum through the *Lead Primary Prevention* program to remove lead dust from their homes now have a new aid to assist them in the proper set-up, use and cleaning of the fine particulate cleaners.

"Until we can develop an adequate supply of lead safe housing, we must continue to find creative solutions to reducing exposure to lead. The Lead Primary Prevention program has become a leader in developing new, cost effective initiatives to protect children's health, and the 'in-house' production of this HEPA Vac video is just one more example of your county government working to reduce the cost of delivering essential services while protecting the public's health," Picente said.

Since 2007, the County's *Lead Primary Prevention* (LPP) program, with the assistance of the NYSDOH Lead Primary Prevention grant and a grant from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, has made available vacuums capable of capturing 99.97% of lead dust to hundreds of County residents, at no cost. LPP staff is required to instruct new borrowers on the proper use of the equipment. The video, which greatly reduces the time required on the vacuum education process, was produced by LPP staff, who wrote the script, acted in and filmed the video. Roser Communications donated studio time and equipment to produce the audio track.

Dr. Gayle Jones, Director of Health, said a 2010 LPP Cost Analysis showed the cost to protect one child using the HEPA-Vac was \$26.95 compared to the annual cost of screening and treating one lead poisoned child of \$2,143.

"By reducing the time our staff is required to spend in the education process, this video will further reduce the per child cost of the program," Jones said. She added, *"The video will eventually contain subtitles in several languages to better serve our residents with limited English proficiency. The video will be made available to other county lead programs across New York State and can also be viewed on our web site at ocgov.net"*

For more information on the HEPA-Vac loaner program, or to arrange for the use of one, contact the *Lead Primary Prevention* program at **(315) 266-6147**.