



CONTACT: Deanne Probst, UCare
dprobst@ucare.org
612-676-3630

MEDIA ADVISORY-Aug. 31

Free lead screenings and education to be offered on Sept. 4 and Sept. 6 at Minnesota State Fair

Children, pregnant women can be screened at the Health Fair 11/Crossroads Building; tests are available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the [UCare](#) information booth

MINNEAPOLIS (Aug. 31, 2010) – [UCare](#) is sponsoring free lead screenings and education sessions for children and pregnant women on two days in September at the [Minnesota State Fair](#).

The screenings and education sessions will be available at no cost on Saturday, Sept. 4, and Monday, Sept. 6, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. in UCare's information booth at the Fair.

The UCare booth is in the Health Fair 11/Crossroads building, located on the corner of Dan Patch Ave. and Cooper St. The lead screenings and lead poisoning education are being offered by [CLEARCorps.](#), and sponsored by UCare.

Testing details

- The screenings are available for children ages 9-30 months, children under age 6 who have never been tested, and pregnant women.
- All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Testing is offered on a first-come, first-served basis between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Lead test results will not be available immediately. Test materials will be sent to the CLEARCorps laboratory. Lead test results will be communicated to the family of the tested person.

Why lead screenings are important

- According to the CDC, approximately 250,000 U.S. children aged 1-5 years have blood lead levels greater than 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood, the level at which public health actions are initiated.

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- Lead poisoning can affect nearly every system in the body.
- Because lead poisoning often occurs with no obvious symptoms, it frequently goes unrecognized. Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and, at very high levels, seizures, coma, and even death.
- A blood test is the only way to know if a child has been exposed to lead.

UCare also sponsored lead test screenings for children and pregnant women at the Minnesota State Fair on Monday, Aug. 30. Testing that day was conducted by staff with the [Leadie Eddie van](#), offered by the [Sustainable Resources Center \(SRC\)](#).

About CLEARCorps

[CLEARCorps/USA](#) is a nonprofit organization that brings lead testing to communities and families facing access challenges to lead testing, such as an inability to get to a testing site, a lack of insurance or means of paying for testing, and language barriers. CLEARCorps provides outreach, education, early intervention and blood lead testing to prevent lead exposure before it leads to a lifelong struggle with special health and educational needs

CLEARCorps' [mobile community lead screening service](#) is one of several ways the organization works to advance healthy home living environments across the nation.

About UCare

[UCare](#) is an independent, non-profit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 200,000 members. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver innovative health coverage products for:

- Individuals and families enrolled in income-based Minnesota Health Care Programs, such as MinnesotaCare and Prepaid Medical Assistance Program.
- Adults with disabilities and Medicare beneficiaries with chronic health conditions.
- Minnesotans dually eligible for Medical Assistance and Medicare.
- Medicare-eligible individuals throughout Minnesota and in western Wisconsin.

UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through its UCare Fund grants and a broad array of community initiatives. The health plan received a Top Workplaces 2010 honor from the *Star Tribune*.