

January 30, 2018

«Firstname» «Lastname»
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«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Salutation»:

The President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children was established in 1997 and is co-chaired by the Administrator of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. I am pleased to invite you to participate in a principals meeting to discuss the next steps in developing the Draft Federal Strategy to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts. The meeting will be held on February 15, 2018, from 2-3 pm at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington, D.C.

As one of the principals from the 17 agencies that constitute the task force, I thank you for contributing to the development of the draft federal strategy. As you know, the task force work has three guiding principles: collaborating across federal agencies; using existing federal resources and optimizing their impact through synergies; and emphasizing activities that address prevention. The work to date on the draft federal strategy provides an excellent example of our principles in action.

In February 2000, the task force published *Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning: A Federal Strategy Targeting Lead Paint Hazards*. The strategy put forward a set of recommendations aimed at eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the United States as a major public health problem by the year 2010. It focused primarily on expanding efforts to address lead paint hazards, a major source of lead exposure for children. We now understand that addressing lead exposures in children in the U.S. requires consideration of other sources of lead exposure, including consumer products, food, drinking water and soil. In 2016 the task force published *Key Federal Programs to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts*. This report compiled federal efforts, planned or ongoing, to understand, prevent and reduce various sources of lead exposure to children. The report provides a starting point for

developing a comprehensive federal lead strategy that identifies future steps to further reduce lead exposures to children in the U.S.

I ask you to come to the principals meeting prepared to consider actions that the federal partners may undertake over the next one to three years to further reduce childhood lead exposures and eliminate associated health impacts. The current draft of the comprehensive strategy is based on achieving the following five major goals:

1. Reduce sources of lead in children's environments;
2. Improve identification and monitoring of lead exposure to children;
3. Improve the health of children identified as lead-exposed;
4. Communicate effectively and consistently with stakeholders about childhood lead exposure; and
5. Plan cross-federal research to advance our scientific understanding of the effects, evaluation and control of lead hazards in children's environments.

Lead poisoning is an insidious menace that robs our children of their intellect and their future. For decades, efforts have been underway on many fronts to reduce and respond to lead exposure and contamination.

Today, there are many separate efforts being undertaken by federal agencies. It is time to bring these efforts together and explore ways to increase our collaboration and partnerships with states, tribes and localities. All areas of lead exposure – from lead pipes to contaminated soil – need to be pursued and addressed in a comprehensive and consistent approach. The time to act is now! As such, I have appointed a full-time EPA National Lead Coordinator to work with federal agencies and other partners on this issue.

I appreciate your active participation, and I look forward to an engaging and productive meeting. My staff will reach out to your office to provide additional information on the event. If you need more information about this initiative, please contact Timothy Epp, EPA National Lead Coordinator, at (202) 564-2830 or epp.timothy@epa.gov.

Respectfully yours,

E. Scott Pruitt