



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH
AND HOSPITALS



Have a Happy and **Lead-Free** Mardi Gras!

For more information, visit
www.lead.dhh.louisiana.gov



Prevent Lead Poisoning

Mardi Gras is a time for family fun in Louisiana. One beloved Mardi Gras activity is attending parades throughout the Carnival season. Some beads and throws may contain lead and there may be lead in the soil along the parade routes. Precautionary measures should be taken to reduce lead exposure for children along parade routes.

It is especially important to take precautions for children placing their hands in their mouths while they play.

Take Precautions

- While attending parades or other activities, use hand wipes. Wipe children's hands before they eat and after picking up beads on the ground.
- Wash and rinse any beads picked up from the streets or along parade routes before allowing children to play with them.
- At home, promptly change any clothing that may have been exposed to dirt along the parade route.

Help keep your family safe by using these simple steps to prevent childhood exposure to lead this Carnival season.

Source: Mielke, H.W, Gonzales, C.R., & Powell E.T. (2012) Potential Lead (Pb) exposure from Carnival Beads and Parade Route Environments. Report provided to Verdi Gras.

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