

Toxicity Lead Poisoning Season Is Here

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By JOE COLLIER

This is the lead season. For undiscovered reasons, it is at this time of the year that the most cases of lead poisonings usually come to the attention of doctors.

Dr. Irving Sunshine, deputy coroner, urged adults who have blistering or flaking paint in their homes or on the premises to scrap off the blisters and repaint.

Choose a modern low-lead paint, he said, and seal off the dangers of lead poisoning.

Dr. Sunshine said that for more than a decade the medical people of Cleveland

have been alerted to look for symptoms of lead poisonings and that as a result many cases have been identified early and serious complications avoided.

DR. DAVID MILLER, medical director of the Hough-Norwood Comprehensive Health Care Center, 1465 E. 55th St., says that four cases of advanced lead poisoning in children have been diagnosed there in the last two years. She says he suspects many other cases have been undiagnosed.

New techniques, now available, allow lead analyses to be made from a drop or two of blood, as against a formidable five cubic centi-

mers in earlier tests, he said. He is urging that public health facilities be set up with the new technique so that all infants and children can be screened for lead.

DR. SUNSHINE also is chairman of the Poison Information Center of the Academy of Medicine.

Last year, he said, there were about 9000 phone calls made to the poison center asking for information. There is now way of telling how many of these calls were about actual poisoning and how many people who were mistakenly frightened.