

## **Overview of Proposed Ordinance 990-17: Lead Safe Housing**

### **Cleveland Lead Safe Network**

City Council Ordinance 990-17 was introduced by Jeff Johnson in August 2017 for the purpose of preventing lead poisoning by assuring that rental housing in Cleveland was certified “lead safe” by a state-licensed lead risk assessor. Owners of rental properties (or properties used for schooling or child care) that were built before 1950 would have one year from enactment to hire a state licensed lead risk assessor to determine the lead hazards in the property.

If hazards are detected, owners are required to use “interim controls” to assure that any lead hazards in the home would not come into contact with occupants of the property. A lead clearance test will be required to assure that interim controls have been applied correctly. Owners of properties built between 1951 and 1978 (when lead was banned from paint) would have two years to come into compliance.

Evidence of lead safe certification would be filed with the City of Cleveland’s Lead Safe Registry. Failure to comply with the requirements to have a lead risk assessment and certify lead safe standard would constitute a violation of the City Housing code.

Interim Controls could include covering lead hazards from walls floors and ceilings with fresh paint; planting grass over bare soil, repairing or replacing windows and other “friction surfaces.” Interim controls do not require removal of lead that is not exposed to occupants of a home, school or day care facility. Because interim controls do not remove underlying lead hazards, clearance testing needs to be repeated. Ordinance 990-17 requires owners to have clearance testing every two years to assure that the controls are being maintained.