



**For Immediate Release**

**June 16, 2016**

**Contacts:**

**Dr. Brian Moench, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, 801-243-9089, drmoench@yahoo.com**  
**Denni Cawley, Executive Director, UPHE, 385-707-3677, dcawleyuphe@gmail.com**

**UPHE Supports AMA New Policy for Routine Lead Testing  
in Schools and Day Care Centers**

**“We must do everything in our power to ensure that another Flint-like water crisis never happens again.” – incoming AMA President**

**“Utah needs to make sure our children and pregnant mothers are protected from lead.” -- UPHE President, Brian Moench**

Salt Lake City (UT) – The American Medical Association (AMA), the largest national organization of physicians, adopted a strong policy on Tuesday to prevent children from being exposed to lead. Following the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, the organization will advocate for laws that require all schools and registered daycare sites to receive routine municipal water quality assurance testing. The AMA also called for an update to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) signature rule dealing with lead in water systems to require timely reporting on a publicly-accessible website of all public water system testing results.

Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment (UPHE) strongly supports the AMA’s new position and applaud them for taking this approach. “UPHE intends to drive the effort to make this policy happen in Utah. Lead is such a hazardous neurotoxin that no exposure can be considered safe or dismissed. Utah needs to make sure our children and pregnant mothers are protected from lead,” says UPHE President, Dr. Brian Moench.

In April, Utah news sources reported high levels of lead in tap water from five Utah water systems. Lead can enter plumbing systems through corrosion and is a major source of lead in drinking water. But lead can be found in the water of both new and older homes, so just testing water systems is not enough. “Utah should go one step further, and offer state-funded testing for blood lead levels in pregnant mothers and newborns upon request,” said Dr. Moench.

“We must do everything in our power to ensure that another Flint-like water crisis never happens again,” said incoming AMA President Andrew W. Gurman, MD. “To truly ensure that our nation’s water supply is safe and free of lead, we are calling for measures to actively monitor the drinking water within our communities...and completely move away from a lead-based plumbing infrastructure.”

*Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment was formed in 2007 during one of Utah’s worse inversions. The organization consists of approximately 400 medical professionals within Utah, and another 4,000 supporting members of the public. UPHE is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of the citizens of Utah by promoting science-based health education and interventions that result in progressive and measurable improvements to the environment. UPHE can be found at [www.uphe.org](http://www.uphe.org) or on Facebook.*