NUTRITION & LEAD

A guide and recipe set to help your family reduce lead absorption.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension
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Nutrition can play an important role in helping to limit the absorption of lead in the body. Eating nutrient-dense foods from a range of food groups provides your body with a variety of vitamins and minerals. This practice promotes overall health and can help you reach the recommended amounts of the key nutrients that can limit lead absorption: iron, calcium and vitamin C.

Following the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and using MyPlate is a great way to do this. The guidelines include:

- Follow a healthy eating pattern across the lifespan.
- Focus on variety, nutrient density and amount.
- Limit calories from added sugars and saturated fats and reduce sodium intake.
- Shift to healthier food and beverage choices.
- Support healthy eating patterns for all.

For more information and practical tips visit choosemyplate.org.

Michigan State University Extension offers free nutrition and physical activity class series and one-time presentations for Michigan residents of all ages. For more information or to sign up for a class, contact your local MSU Extension office at msue.msu.edu/county.

Each recipe in this booklet uses low-cost ingredients to help you prepare tasty, nutritious meals. These recipes are a source of iron, calcium, vitamin C and a range of other nutrients.
FIGHT LEAD WITH NUTRITION

The foods we prepare and serve to our families can help limit the absorption of lead. Three steps you can take when choosing and preparing food can make a difference:

1. Choose a range of nutrient-dense food for overall health and to help make sure you have enough iron, calcium and vitamin C in your body.
2. Eat regular meals and snacks.
3. When preparing food, be sure to wash and cook with safe water.

KEY NUTRIENTS

IRON & VITAMIN C
Iron can make it harder for lead to be absorbed in the body. Sources of iron include:
- Red meat, fish and chicken
- Green leafy vegetables, such as spinach, kale and collard greens
- Whole-grain and iron-fortified: cereal, bread and pasta
- Dried fruit
- Beans, peas and lentils

Vitamin C is important for skin and bone health. Together with iron it may also help reduce lead absorption. Vitamin C is found in many fruit and vegetables. Sources of vitamin C include:
- Citrus fruit, like oranges and grapefruit, and their juices
- Tomatoes and tomato juice
- Veggies such as peppers, broccoli, potatoes, Brussels sprouts and more!
- Fruit like peaches, strawberries, pears, watermelon and more!

CALCIUM
Calcium keeps your bones strong and can help reduce lead absorption. Sources of calcium include:
- Milk and milk products, like cheese and yogurt
  - Green leafy vegetables, such as spinach, kale and collard greens
  - Calcium-fortified orange juice
  - Tofu
  - Canned salmon and sardines (both with the bones in)
KEY TERMS (as related to nutrition):

• **Absorption**: The process that moves molecules, including vitamins and minerals, from the stomach into the body.

• **Daily Value**: A measure of each nutrient on the food label. The Daily Value is often close to the Recommended Dietary Allowance. It helps users see how much of a certain nutrient is in a serving-size portion of food compared with how much is recommended.

• **Deficiency**: Not having enough of a nutrient that your body needs.

• **Fortification**: The process of adding a nutrient (vitamin or mineral) to a food to improve its nutritional quality.

• **Nutrient-dense**: Foods that contain a lot of nutrients and relatively few calories.

• **Recommended Dietary Allowance**: The average daily intake of a nutrient needed to meet the nutrient needs of the body for most healthy people.

READING FOOD LABELS

Knowing how to read food labels can help you make healthy choices. You can find out what percentage of a nutrient’s daily value (%DV) is in the product.

For a food to be considered a *good source* of any nutrient, it must contain 10% to 19% of the daily value (%DV) per serving.

For a food to be considered *high, rich* or an *excellent source* of any nutrient, it must contain 20% or more of the daily value (%DV) per serving.

For items that are missing a food label, such as fresh foods, visit www.supertracker.usda.gov to find the nutrition facts.
VEGGIE LOADED BURGERS

Ingredients:
1 15-ounce can (low-sodium or salt-free) beans, black, pinto or whatever beans you have on hand
1 cup green bell pepper, rinsed and finely chopped
1 pound ground beef
1 egg
½ teaspoon salt
black pepper to taste
8 whole-wheat buns

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. Mix beans and peppers in a medium bowl and mash with your fingers.
3. Add ground beef, egg, salt and pepper.
4. With your hands, mix until well combined.
5. For sliders, make 16 patties and for burgers, make 8 patties.
6. Panfry, broil or grill on the BBQ.
7. Serve on whole grain buns. For sliders, cut whole grain hot dog buns into three parts.
8. Garnish with fresh spinach, sliced roma tomato and sweet onion (optional).

Tip: Add more veggies like broccoli, carrots, Brussels sprouts, beets, to make the burgers even more nutritious.

Nutrition facts per serving: 302 calories, 8g fat, 3g saturated fat, 228mg sodium, 33g carbohydrate, 7g fiber, 16g protein, 124 mg calcium, 3.7 mg iron, 13 mg vitamin C

QUICK SKILLET LASAGNA

Ingredients:
1 pound lean ground meat; beef, turkey or game
1 cup onion, rinsed and chopped
3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
1 cup green bell pepper, rinsed and chopped
1 28-ounce can tomato sauce with Italian seasoning
1 10-ounce package spinach, rinsed and chopped
6 cups cooked whole wheat pasta
1 cup low-fat cottage cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. In a 10-inch skillet, preferably cast iron, cook the meat over medium-high for 5 minutes stirring to break up.
3. Add onions, garlic and green pepper. Cook until meat is browned and cooked through (about 10 minutes).
4. Drain off fat.
5. Add tomato sauce and spinach. Bring to a boil and simmer 10 minutes.
6. Taste and season with salt, pepper and Italian seasoning.
7. Turn heat to low and stir cooked pasta into the sauce.
8. Mix cottage cheese and mozzarella cheese together.
9. Drop cheese mixture, by spoonfuls, into sauce.
10. Cover and heat over low heat until cheese melts, or place under broiler to melt cheese.

Nutrition facts per serving: 320 calories, 8.5g fat, 2.8g saturated fat, 40mg cholesterol, 770mg sodium, 38g carbohydrate, 6.6g fiber, 27g protein, 242 mg calcium, 4.9 mg iron, 31.5 mg vitamin C

Adapted from: Michigan State University Extension, 2015. Eating Right is Simple Recipe Set

Makes 8 servings
MICHIGAN BEAN SALAD

Ingredients:
1 cup green bell pepper, rinsed and chopped
1 cup red bell pepper, rinsed and chopped
1 cup onion, rinsed and chopped
1 cup celery, rinsed and chopped
1 15-ounce can white corn (reduced sodium or no salt added), drained
1 15-ounce can pinto beans (reduced sodium or no salt added), drained
1 15-ounce can black eyed peas (reduced sodium or no salt added), drained
½ cup canola oil
1 cup sugar
¾ cup vinegar; white, red or cider
1 teaspoon salt
1 Tablespoon water

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. Mix peppers, onions, celery, corn, beans and peas in a medium bowl.
3. In a small saucepan, mix oil, sugar, vinegar, salt and water then boil for 2 minutes.
4. Pour dressing over salad and chill in the refrigerator.

Nutrition facts per serving: 367 calories, 15 g fat, .23 g saturated fat, 545 mg sodium, 53 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 7 g protein, 56 mg calcium, 1.9 mg iron, 30 mg vitamin C

Adapted from: Michigan State University Extension. 2015. Eating Right is Simple Recipe Set.
APPLE, CARROT AND RAISIN SALAD  
Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:
1 ½ cups carrots, rinsed and shredded  
1 apple, rinsed and diced  
½ cup raisins  
3 Tablespoons calcium-fortified orange juice  
3 teaspoons apple cider vinegar  
½ Tablespoon brown sugar  
2 Tablespoons non-fat plain or Greek yogurt  
2 cups fresh baby spinach, rinsed

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.  
2. Stir carrot, apples and raisins together in a mixing bowl.  
3. In a separate bowl, mix orange juice, vinegar, sugar and yogurt.  
4. Pour dressing over salad and chill in the refrigerator.  
5. Serve salad over fresh spinach.

Nutrition facts per serving: 115 calories, 2g fat, 0g saturated fat, 0g cholesterol, 50mg sodium, 27g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 2g protein, 71 mg calcium, 1.2 mg iron, 13 mg vitamin C  
Adapted from: Michigan State University Extension. 2015. Eating Right is Simple Recipe Set.
**OVEN FRIES**

**Ingredients:**
4 medium russet or sweet potatoes  
1 Tablespoon canola oil  
vegetable oil spray  
½ teaspoon salt or seasoning of your choice

**Directions:**
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.  
2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.  
3. Scrub and cut potatoes into ½-inch-thick strips.  
4. Rinse in cold water several times until water is no longer cloudy.  
5. Dry potato strips on paper towel or clean kitchen towel.  
6. In large bowl, toss potatoes with canola oil.  
7. Spray cookie sheet with vegetable oil.  
8. Season potatoes with:  
   --salt  
   --for chicken fries, use the season packet from chicken ramen noodles  
   --for cheese fries, season with ¼ cheese packet from mac and cheese box  
   --for spicy fries, use chili powder or Cajun seasoning.  
Note: the nutrition facts below are based on russet potatoes with ½ tsp salt. If you change the seasoning, it could increase or decrease the sodium levels.  
9. Lay potato strips in single layer and bake for 40-55 minutes, turning over after 20 minutes to crisp on all sides.

**Nutrition facts per serving:** 132 calories, 2.5 g fat, .2 g saturated fat, 209 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrate, 2.7 g fiber, 3 g protein, 21 mg calcium, 1.2 mg iron, 9.5 mg vitamin C

Adapted from: Michigan State University Extension. 2015. Eating Right is Simple Recipe Set.
CHIC PENNE

Ingredients:
3 cups uncooked whole-wheat penne pasta
1 teaspoon granulated garlic
2 cups fresh broccoli florets, rinsed
1 cup cooked chicken, diced
1 ½ cups fat-free half and half
1 Tablespoon all-purpose flour
½ cup low-sodium chicken broth
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
½ cup reduced-fat cheddar cheese, shredded
½ cup low-fat mozzarella cheese, low-moisture, part-skim, shredded
Nonstick cooking spray

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
3. In a large pot, bring 2 quarts water to a boil. Gradually stir in pasta and return to a boil. Cook uncovered for 8-10 minutes or until tender. Do not overcook. Drain well. Toss pasta with ½ teaspoon garlic.
4. Fill a medium pot with water and bring to a boil. Add broccoli florets and cook for 5 minutes. Drain well. Sprinkle with remaining garlic.
5. Transfer pasta and broccoli to a medium casserole dish (about 8 inches by 11 inches) coated with nonstick cooking spray. Add chicken. Mix well.
6. In a small mixing bowl, mix ½ cup half and half with flour. Whisk to remove lumps.
7. In a medium skillet, heat chicken broth, salt, pepper and remaining half and half. Stir constantly. Stir in half and half/flour mixture. Stir constantly and bring to a boil.
8. Reduce heat to low. Stir frequently for 5 minutes. Sauce will thicken. Add cheese and stir until cheese melts. Remove from heat. Pour sauce over broccoli/pasta mixture.
9. Cover casserole dish with lid or with foil. Bake at 350 degrees F for 8 minutes. Heat to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F or higher for at least 15 seconds (use a food thermometer to check the internal temperature). Remove from oven. Serve hot.

Nutrition facts per serving: 300 calories, 6 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 418 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 19 g protein, 231 mg calcium, 2 mg iron, 17 mg vitamin C

FISH SLIDERS

Ingredients:
13 ounces canned salmon, mackerel or other canned fish (with bones)
2 slices of bread, 100% whole wheat, torn into tiny pieces and crumbs
½ of one green pepper, rinsed and chopped
1 stalk celery, rinsed and chopped
¼ onion, rinsed and chopped
⅛ teaspoon pepper
2 Tablespoons lemon juice
2 eggs, well beaten
Vegetable oil or spray
1 package whole-grain hot dog buns
Sliced Roma tomatoes and fresh spinach

Directions:
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
1. Thoroughly wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. Drain fish.
3. Sauté pepper, celery and onion in oil until tender.
4. Combine fish, bread crumbs, green pepper, celery, pepper and lemon juice in a mixing bowl.
5. Beat eggs with fork in small bowl. Add eggs to fish mixture.
6. Form mixture into 16 small patties. Place on a cookie sheet.
7. Bake at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes, or until internal temperature of 145 degrees F is reached. OR pan fry until golden, about 3 minutes on each side.
8. Cut hot dog buns into thirds. Serve Fish Sliders with greens, tomatoes, onion, and other fresh vegetables!

Nutrition facts per serving (baked): 384 calories, 11 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 150 mg cholesterol, 807 mg sodium, 37 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 34 g protein, 425 mg calcium, 4 mg iron, 34 mg vitamin C

Adapted from: Michigan State University Extension. 2015. Eating Right is Simple Recipe Set.
BEST TOMATO SAUCE

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:
1 Tablespoon canola oil
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
½ teaspoon salt
¼ cup onion, rinsed and finely chopped
Pinch crushed red chili flakes
28-ounce can tomatoes, crushed or diced
6-ounce can tomato paste
½ teaspoon sugar

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. Add oil to saucepan on medium high heat.
3. Add garlic, onion and salt, and sauté until translucent, about 1 minute.
4. Add chili flakes and stir for 10 seconds.
5. Add tomatoes, paste and sugar. Stir and bring to a boil.
6. Simmer gently for 15 minutes.

You can now use this for tomato sauce in another recipe. For a thicker sauce, to serve over pasta, simmer longer and season with ½ tsp. Italian seasoning.

Nutrition facts per serving: 107 calories, 4 g fat, .5 g saturated fat, 0 g cholesterol, 610 mg sodium, 18 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 3.7 g protein, 87 mg calcium, 2.4 mg iron, 54 mg vitamin C

LENTIL SPAGHETTI

Ingredients:
2 cups water
½ cup dried lentils
1 Tablespoon canola oil
½ cup carrot, rinsed and chopped
½ cup onion, rinsed and chopped
2 pinches salt
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ green pepper, rinsed and chopped
1 batch “Best Tomato Sauce” (see pg 13) or 3 cups canned tomato sauce
¼ teaspoon Italian seasoning
pepper to taste
8 ounces whole-wheat spaghetti pasta

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. Rinse lentils and drain.
3. Bring water and lentils to a boil in a medium saucepan.
4. Simmer 20 minutes.
5. Heat a saucepan on medium high.
6. Add canola oil and carrots and sauté for 2 minutes.
7. Add onion, salt, garlic and green pepper. Sauté for 2 minutes.
8. Add tomato sauce and Italian seasoning.
10. When lentils are done they will be tender to the bite. At this point drain and add to tomato sauce.
11. While sauce simmers, cook spaghetti according to package directions.
12. Serve sauce over pasta.

Nutrition facts per serving: 253 calories, 5 g fat, .4 g saturated fat, 0 g cholesterol, 91 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 6.7 g fiber, 11 g protein, 30 mg calcium, 2.96 mg iron, 19.88 mg vitamin C

Adapted from: Michigan State University Extension. 2015. Eating Right is Simple Recipe Set.
BRUSSELS SPROUTS HASH AND EGGS

Makes 2 servings

Ingredients:
4 cups Brussels sprouts, rinsed and finely chopped
½ teaspoon salt
pepper to taste
1 Tablespoon butter
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
6 olives, finely chopped
lemon juice
2 eggs

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. Chop off the ends of the sprouts. Slice them in half, then finely shred each half. Place the shreds in a bowl and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
3. Melt the butter in a non-stick pan on medium high heat. Swirl it around to coat the pan. Add the Brussels sprout shreds and garlic, then leave it to cook for about 1 minute.
4. Mix it up and toss it around. Add the olives and mix again.
5. Crack the eggs into separate areas of the pan. Sprinkle them with salt and pepper.
6. Pour in 2 tablespoons of water and cover with a lid. Let the eggs steam, undisturbed, for 2 minutes.
7. Once the whites of the eggs are cooked through, turn off the heat and sprinkle everything with lemon juice.

Nutrition facts per serving: 255 calories, 14.5 g fat, 5.6 g saturated fat, 861 mg sodium, 25 g carbohydrate, 14 g fiber, 14 g protein, 158 mg calcium, 5 mg iron, 199 mg vitamin C

TOMATO SCRAMBLED EGGS

Makes 2 servings

Ingredients:
½ Tablespoon butter
4 cups fresh tomatoes or 2 cups canned tomatoes, chopped
4 eggs
¼ teaspoon salt
pepper to taste
Optional additions: fresh basil or other herbs, chopped

Directions:
1. Wash hands and all food preparation surfaces.
2. Put a small pan on medium heat and melt the butter, then swirl it around to coat the pan. Add the tomatoes. Cook until the tomatoes release their juice and most of the juice evaporates, about 5 to 7 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, crack the eggs into a bowl and add a sprinkle of salt and pepper. Beat the eggs lightly with a fork.
4. Once most of the juice has cooked out of the tomatoes, turn the heat down to low and add the eggs to the pan. Using a spatula, gently mix the eggs and tomatoes. Carefully stir the eggs to keep them from forming chunks. Turn down the heat as low as possible; the slower your eggs cook, the creamier they’ll be.
5. Once the eggs are done, turn off the heat and add any chopped herbs you have around. Basil is the best with tomatoes.
6. If you have some around, serve over toast or a tortilla.

Nutrition facts per serving (without tortilla): 246 calories, 8 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 834 mg sodium, 18 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 10 g protein, 111 mg calcium, 4 mg iron, 22 mg vitamin C

Food Assistance in Genesee County

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
The WIC program supplies extra food for low-income pregnant or breast-feeding mothers, and for infants and children up to 5 years old who are at nutritional risk. Foods provided through WIC include:

- Infant formula
- Fruits and vegetables rich in iron, calcium and vitamin C
- Whole-grain bread and cereals and iron-rich cereals
- Eggs, milk and cheese

To apply for WIC, call 800-262-4784 (toll-free) or 810-237-4537.

WIC-Project Fresh
If you receive WIC benefits, you’re eligible to receive Project Fresh coupons to buy locally grown fruits and veggies! This program runs from June 1 through October 31 each year. For more information, contact Genesee County WIC at 810-237-4537 or MSU Extension at 810-244-8500.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
The SNAP program (formerly called food stamps) provides low-income residents with money to purchase food, including:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Breads and cereals
- Dairy, meat, fish, and poultry

You’re also allowed to buy seeds and food-producing plants with your SNAP benefits to grow your own food. Apply for SNAP at www.mibridges.michigan.gov or call the Genesee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at 810-760-2200.

Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB)
The DUFB program matches your SNAP benefits when you buy Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables. For example, if you buy $10 worth of Michigan produce, you’ll get an extra $10 to buy more fruits and veggies! You can use this program at:

- Flint Farmers’ Market, 300 East 1st Street, Flint; phone 810-232-1399; open year round
- Landmark Food Centers (two Flint locations): 206 West Pierson Road, phone 810-789-7311, OR 4644 Fenton Road, phone 810-238-2972). Offered at limited times during the year, call to check dates and hours for both locations.

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The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
TEFAP provides healthy foods to qualified families and individuals once every three months at community distribution sites such as pantries and churches. Call GCCARD at 810-789-3746 or 810-232-2185 for details.

Commodities Food Program
This supplemental food program is designed to help low-income people aged 60 and up. Food is provided once a month. Call 810-789-3746 or 810-232-2185 for details.

Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan can connect you with food assistance programs. Call 810-239-4441 or visit www.fbem.org for details.

Genesee County Health Department
www.gchd.us; phone 810-257-3612.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
The SFSP provides nutritious meals to income-eligible children during long school vacations. To locate a site near you visit www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition or contact the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan at 810-239-4441.

National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs (NSLBP)
The NSLBP provides nutritious lunch and/or breakfast to children during school for free or at a low-cost. For more information about these programs, contact your school officials.
Lead isn’t good for anyone’s health, and it’s especially bad for small children and pregnant women. Keep your family lead-safe by avoiding contact with it. You and your children could be exposed to lead from a variety of sources including: old paint, dust, dirt, pottery, make-up, toys and some home remedies. If you are concerned about contaminated water, check with local authorities for safe water recommendations. Use of a NSF-certified filter or bottled water for drinking, cooking and mixing baby formula may be required. If using a filter, make sure to change the filter cartridge by the date printed on the package. If you have any concerns about lead or your child’s diet, talk to your doctor.

Lead Resources:
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): www.epa.gov/lead.

Additional Genesee County Resources:
211
Service connects Genesee County residents to community resources, including food, transportation, education, health care, water filters and replacement cartridges. Locally funded by United Way Genesee County. Contact them by phone at 211 or online at www.211.org.

Flint Water Department
Offers free water testing. Pick up test kits at 1101 S. Saginaw Street, Flint; phone 810-787-6537.

Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD)
Offers free water filters; phone 810-789-3746 or 810-232-2185.

Michigan State University Extension
Offers free nutrition education classes and soil testing for lead. Phone 810-244-8500.
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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
    Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
    1400 Independence Avenue, SW
    Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers (click the link for a listing of hotline numbers by State); found online at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact_info/hotlines.htm.

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