

Childhood Lead Poisoning

You are the first line of defense
Make sure to order a Lead test

A blood lead test is the only sure way to identify a child with elevated blood lead levels.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends blood lead testing at

12 and 24 months OR at least once before age 6

It is important to accompany diagnostic tests with education for patients on ways to reduce their children's risk for lead poisoning.



What we know — Blood Lead Level (BLL) Response Actions

There is no safe level or threshold for lead exposure

Lower levels of exposure present no obvious symptoms

Exposure may be a result of:

- Deteriorating paint from home built before 1978
- Family hobbies or occupations
- Everyday products manufactured with lead

Lead exposure may cause

- Brain and nervous system damage
- Reduced IQ
- Behavioral problems
- Learning disabilities
- Slowed growth and development
- Hearing and speech disabilities
- Premature and low birth weights in pregnant women

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https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/acclpp/actions_blls.html

BLL Test Results (µg/dL)	Venous Confirmation Retest Within	Recommended Actions Based on BLL	Venous Retest – After Recommended Actions
< 5	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide dietary counseling (calcium & iron) and environmental education • Follow-up blood lead monitoring at recommended intervals 	Retest according to Blood Lead Screening Plan
5 – 9	3 mo	<p>Above Actions, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete history and physical exam 	3 months for first 2 - 4 tests 6 - 9 months after BLL are declining
10 – 19	1 - 3 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab work: Iron status, hemoglobin, hematocrit • Refer to health department for environmental investigation 	1 - 3 months for first 2 - 4 tests 3 - 6 months after BLL are declining
20 – 24	1 - 3 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental assessment to identify potential lead sources • Recommend lead hazard reduction in home 	1 - 3 months for first 2 - 4 tests 1 - 3 months after BLL are declining
25 – 44	2 wk - 1 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurological, behavioral, and developmental monitoring • Abdominal X-Ray (if lead ingestion is suspected with bowel decontamination) 	2 weeks - 1 month for first 2 - 4 tests 1 month after BLL are declining
45 – 59	ASAP 48 hours	<p>Above Actions, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral chelation therapy 	Every 24 hours or as medically indicated
60 – 69	ASAP 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider hospitalization if lead-safe environment cannot be assured 	Every 24 hours or as medically indicated
≥ 70	Stat as emergency test	<p>Above Actions, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitalize and commence chelation therapy in conjunction with consultation from a medical toxicologist or a pediatric environmental health specialty unit 	Every 24 hours or as medically indicated

To order educational materials for your office or families contact 702-895-1040



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