

Understanding Lead in Your Home

The No. 1 PREVENTABLE illness in children

What is an Elevated Blood Lead Level?

- Lead is a heavy metal, that if swallowed or inhaled by young children can cause serious health problems that could affect mental and physical development. At high levels, elevated lead in the blood may even cause death.
- Young children are at the greatest risk because they put many things in their mouths, and their bodies easily absorb lead.



Lead Effects and Testing

- Sometimes there are no symptoms of an elevated blood lead level. In fact, signs of lead exposure could be mistaken for other illnesses, such as the flu. However, exposure to any level of lead could harm your child's nervous system, brain development and growth.
- **Call your local health department or pediatrician to have your child tested for lead exposure.**



If your home was built before 1978, it may have several sources of lead.

- Interior and exterior paint
- Lead water pipes or soldered joints
- Lead-glazed pottery used for food storage
- Old furniture with lead paint
- Lead dust created by home renovation or deterioration
- Soil in yards, playgrounds or gardens near lead painted buildings or busy streets
- Foreign traditional remedies or cosmetics
- Toys made outside the United States, fishing weights
- Hobbies and jobs may also be sources of lead

If your home was built before 1978,
have your child screened for lead.

Next Steps

- Talk with your doctor about lead testing for your children 6 years old and younger.
- Keep painted surfaces in good shape; report peeling and chipping paint to your landlord.
- If your home has lead water pipes or lead soldered joints, use cold water from the tap. Let the water run 1-2 minutes for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Hot water may cause lead to leach into your water supply.
- Have your home checked by a licensed Lead Risk Assessor.
- Take precautions to avoid dust during remodeling.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills, stairs and railings with a wet mop or cloth to control dust that may contain lead.
- Frequently wash your children's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys.
- Serve healthy meals, low in fat and include iron, calcium and Vitamin C.

Is your family at risk?

- Does your child live in or visit a house or child care center built before 1978?
- Does your child have a sibling or playmate who has an elevated blood lead level?
- Is your child enrolled in Hoosier Healthwise (Medicaid)?
- Does your child frequently come in contact with a person who works or has a hobby in a high risk industry, such as a battery factory, smelter, stained glass, fishing or reloading ammunition?
- Is your child a recent immigrant from a country where the use of lead in consumer products or traditional remedies such as Arzacan or Greta is not restricted?
- Have you exposed your child to cosmetics containing Kohl?

If you answered YES to any question,
have your child screened for lead.



How can you prevent lead poisoning?
Have your child screened.

For more information go to:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/26550.htm>
www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner

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IDOH Guidance for Implementation of Lead Screening Requirements from House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1313

Dear Partners:

On March 10, 2022, Governor Holcomb signed into law a bill requiring healthcare providers to confirm that children under 7 have been tested for lead, and if not, to offer this testing to the parent or guardian of that child. The bill is slated to take effect January 1, 2023.

Within the law, there are references to a "blood lead screening test", "screening children", and "lead poisoning screening". Each of these references is intended to refer to either a capillary or venous blood lead test as defined in 410 IAC 29-1-3 and 410 IAC 29-1-25.

The law directs the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to "establish guidance and standards for health care providers" as it relates to required screening and testing. Below is that guidance:

To ensure uniformity between HEA 1313 and the Medicaid Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostics, and Treatment (EPDST) guidelines, IDOH is requiring all providers to follow the steps below:

- 1. Children should receive a blood lead test between the ages of nine (9) and fifteen (15) months, or as close as reasonably possible to the patient's appointment.**
- 2. Children should have another blood lead test between the ages of twenty-one (21) and twenty-seven (27) months, or as close as reasonably possible to the patient's appointment.**
- 3. Any child between twenty-eight (28) and seventy-two (72) months that does not have a record of any prior blood lead test must have a blood lead test performed as soon as possible.**

If a provider can verify, via the Children's Health and Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP), or the records from another provider, that blood lead testing has occurred at the required interval(s), they are not obligated to repeat the procedure.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.



If a parent or guardian refuses to allow their child to be tested, providers are encouraged to document the refusal in writing and have the parent or guardian sign an attestation of refusal. A sample refusal attestation accompanies this guidance. Providers are expected to keep a copy of the refusal, either digital or hard copy, with the patient record until the child reaches age 7. Providers are only required to keep a single refusal on file if a parent or guardian indicates they will not allow initial or follow-up testing.

All blood lead testing is required (per IC-41-39.4-3) to be reported to IDOH within one (1) week of receiving the result. Both providers and laboratories are obligated to report any result received or analyzed.

If you would like education around ways to conduct blood lead testing in-office, or would like IDOH support in obtaining capillary testing supplies or lab support, please reach out to our Lead and Healthy Homes Division at 317-233-1250.