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## MEMO

**Date:** April 23, 2020  
**To:** Pediatric Health Care Providers  
**From:** Karyn Butts, MPH, Manager, Maine CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit  
**CC:** Andrew Smith, SM, ScD, State Toxicologist  
Leslie Walleigh, MD, MPH, Public Health Physician  
**RE:** Modifications to Services for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Test Results due to COVID-19

Maine CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit is aware of challenges providers and families are facing when it comes to primary care services, including routine blood lead testing, and specifically, confirming elevated capillary blood lead test results with a venous specimen.

Due to these challenges, Maine CDC will provide modified services in response to a capillary (unconfirmed) blood lead level of 10 mcg/dL and higher as follows. No action is required by providers to initiate this modified service.

### **New Modified Service for Capillary (Unconfirmed) Blood Lead Levels of 10 mcg/dL and Higher**

- Maine CDC staff will reach out to provider offices to discuss plans for confirmation testing of elevated capillary results.
- If there are barriers to obtaining a timely venous confirmatory specimen, Maine CDC will:
  - Offer a free, do-it-yourself lead dust test kit and phone consultation to help the family complete the test.
  - If the home testing finds elevated levels of lead dust, Maine CDC will provide the same free, professional lead inspection and case management services that we provide in response to a confirmed blood lead level.
- Providers should still plan to confirm the elevated capillary result when practicable.
- Please note that this is a temporary service due to COVID-19.

Finally, as you make plans for resuming operations and catching up on required blood lead testing for patients at ages 1 and 2 years, please be aware that under Maine law, providers have two options for blood lead testing:

1. Submit blood lead samples to the State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory; or
2. Perform point-of-care capillary blood lead analysis using a CLIA-waived blood lead testing device and directly report all test results through ImmPact.
  - Providers must have Maine CDC approval before they can begin in-office testing.
  - For more information: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/eohp/lead/ld300/in-office-testing.shtml>

We want pediatric health care providers to know that the Maine CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit continues to remain fully operational during the COVID-19 Pandemic. If you have any questions about the above services, please contact Dr. Leslie Walleigh, Public Health Physician, at 207-287-3222 or [Leslie.walleigh@maine.gov](mailto:Leslie.walleigh@maine.gov).