



Pediatric Blood Lead Testing Guidelines

Effective June 27, 2019, Maine law requires blood lead tests for all children at 1 and 2 years of age.

Blood Lead Testing Requirements

Age	Children Covered by MaineCare	Children Not Covered by MaineCare
1 year (9 to <18 months)	Blood lead test mandatory under Maine and federal law	Blood lead test mandatory under Maine law
2 years (18 to <36 months)	Blood lead test mandatory under Maine and federal law	Blood lead test mandatory under Maine law
3-5 years (36-72 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> If not previously tested: Mandatory blood lead test If previously tested: Recommend blood lead test yearly unless risk assessment questionnaire is negative. 	Recommend blood lead test yearly unless risk assessment questionnaire is negative.

The pediatric blood lead reference level is 5 µg/dL.

In all cases, if a blood lead test result is $\geq 5\mu\text{g/dL}$, follow up according to Maine CDC's "Recommended Confirmation and Follow-up Schedule."

Risk Assessment Questionnaire

- Does your child spend more than 10 hours per week in any house built before 1950?
- Does your child spend more than 10 hours per week in any house built before 1978 that was renovated or remodeled within the last 6 months?
- Does your child spend time with an adult whose job exposes him/her to lead? (Examples: construction, painting, metalwork)
- Does your child have a sibling or playmate that has been diagnosed with lead poisoning?

Additional Recommendations

At-Risk Populations

In addition to testing at 1 and 2 years, consider a blood lead test between 36 and 72 months for children in the following at-risk groups.

- Recent immigrants or international adoptees
- Children whose parents immigrated to the U.S.

Clinical Conditions

Consider a blood lead test, regardless of age, if children have any of the following conditions.

- Unusual oral behavior, pica, developmental delays, behavioral problems, ADHD
- Unexplained illness: severe anemia, lethargy, abdominal pain
- Ingestion of paint chip or object that might contain lead

Recommended Testing Schedule for Recently Arrived Refugee Children

- Perform a blood lead test for children 6 months to 16 years upon entry to the U.S.
- Within 3-6 months of initial test, conduct follow-up test for children 6 months to 6 years, regardless of initial test result.
- Consult U.S. CDC guidelines: [cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/refugeetoolkit/pdfs/cdcrecommendations.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/refugeetoolkit/pdfs/cdcrecommendations.pdf)



Recommended Confirmation and Follow-up Schedule For Pediatric Blood Lead Levels ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$

NEW! The Maine CDC provides a full lead investigation of a child's home environment when a venous blood lead test result is ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

Capillary Lead Test Confirmation Schedule

Confirm all capillary blood lead levels ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ with venous samples, according to the following schedule.

Capillary Blood Lead Level	Confirm with Venous Test Within*
5 - <10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	3 months
10 - <45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	1 month
45 - <60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	48 hours
60 - <70 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	24 hours
≥ 70 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Immediately as an emergency test

*The higher the capillary test result, the more urgent the need for a confirmatory venous test. A venous test must be done prior to initiation of Maine CDC services.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Tips for Families

- Keep children away from peeling or chipping paint.
- Wash children's hands before eating and going to bed.
- Clean floors, windowsills, and tabletops with wet mops or rags once a week.
- Wash toys once a week and keep toys away from areas with chipping paint.
- Feed your child at a table or in a highchair.
- Avoid sanding and scraping paint in old homes.
- Call Maine CDC or visit our website for more information.

Venous Lead Test Follow-up Schedule

For all venous blood lead levels ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, conduct follow-up venous blood lead tests, according to the following schedule.

Venous Blood Lead Level	Follow-up Venous Test Schedule	Long-Term Follow-Up**	Maine CDC Response
5 - <10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	3 months	When <5 resume screening schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental investigation • Case management by phone
10 - <15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Within 3 months	6-9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental investigation • Case management by phone • Offer home visit from public health nurse
15 - <20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Within 2 months	3-6 months	
20 - <45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Within 1 month	1-3 months	
≥ 45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat venous blood test immediately • Chelation therapy as indicated • Consider consult with New England Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit: 617-355-8177 Or the Northern New England Poison Center: 1-800-222-1222 	Based on chelation protocol	

**Long-term follow-up should only begin after blood lead is declining and child is living in a lead-safe environment.

For additional guidance on the management of children at risk of lead exposure, see the 2012 Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention statement: "Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention" (cdc.gov/nceh/lead/ACCLPP/Final_Document_030712.pdf).