



## Blood Lead Surveillance Branch

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## Lead Testing and Reporting Basics

### Who should be tested for lead exposure?

Lead exposure can happen easily and is a concern for children, especially if they are under the age of 6. This is because it's easy for children to swallow or ingest lead from different sources like chips and dust from old paint, common spices, toys, etc. There are no safe levels of blood lead and testing is the only way to indicate that lead poisoning has occurred.

When determining whether a child should be tested for lead poisoning it's important to know if a child is enrolled in Texas Health Steps (Medicaid). Children that are enrolled in Medicaid are required by the state of Texas to have blood lead testing at the ages of 12 and 24 months; also, up to the age of 6 years if there are no other tests on file. If the child is not enrolled in Texas Health Steps, providers can utilize one of two screening tools, the "[Lead Risk Questionnaire \(Pb-110\)](#)" and the "[Childhood Blood Lead Screening Guidelines \(Pb-120\)](#)". These forms can be used to establish if there is potential exposure to the child by answering yes or no questions and detailing whether the family of the child lives in a targeted zip code. A list of these zip codes can be found attached to the [Pb-120 screening guidelines](#). If

a child does reside in a targeted zip code or answers yes to any of the questions of the Lead Risk Questionnaire a Blood Lead test is encouraged.

## How to Test and What to Use

Testing can be done by performing a venous blood draw or a capillary blood draw. A capillary test, or finger prick, is often done as the first step to determine if there is lead present in a child's blood because it's less invasive than a venous draw. After the finger prick is done, it's important to know that a venous draw may be required for confirmation of a blood lead level above 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL). If a blood lead level is above 3.5 µg/dL, providers should utilize the ["Reference for Blood Lead Retesting and Medical Case Management Form \(Pb-109\)"](#) to determine when to retest and if medical case management is necessary for follow up to help lower the lead level.

Blood lead samples may be collected and tested on either a Microtube for Automated Process (MAP) or a purple top Becton-Dickson (BD) K2EDTA tube. If supplies are needed, providers can order through the DSHS Lab using the order form associated with the QR code Below.



For further questions about supplies, and blood lead testing, providers can contact [clinicalchemistry@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:clinicalchemistry@dshs.texas.gov) or [labinfo@dshs.texas.state.us](mailto:labinfo@dshs.texas.state.us).

**Reference for Blood Lead Retesting and Medical Case Management** Pb-109

• Immediately retest the child if the blood lead level ( BLL) is unsatisfactory (e.g. "Clotted" or "Insufficient Quantity").  
• Follow the flowchart below to determine when retesting and medical case management is necessary.

**Table 1: Schedule for Obtaining a Diagnostic Venous Sample**

Capillary Screening Test Result (µg/dL)	Perform Venous Diagnostic Test Within
≥ 3.5-9	1 week - 4 weeks*
≥ 10-19	1 week - 2 weeks
≥ 20-44	2 weeks - 1 month
≥ 245	Within 48 hours

**Table 2: Schedule for Venous Blood Lead Testing**

Venous Blood Lead Level (µg/dL)	Retesting (First 2-4 tests after identification)	Late Retesting (after BLL begins to decline)
≥ 3.5-9	3 months	6 months - 9 months
≥ 10-19	1 month - 3 months	3 months - 6 months
≥ 20-44	2 weeks - 1 month	1 month - 3 months
≥ 245	As soon as possible	As soon as possible

**Table 3: Medical Case Management for Children with a Diagnostic Blood Lead Level Greater than 3.5 µg/dL**

≥ 3.5-19 µg/dL	≥ 20-44 µg/dL	≥ 45 µg/dL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead Education: Dietary &amp; Environmental</li> <li>Continued BLL monitoring</li> <li>Lab work: Hemoglobin or hematocrit, iron status</li> <li>Nutrition Counseling, as needed</li> <li>Lead Questionnaire</li> <li>Environmental Lead Investigation if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• venous BLL ≥ 210 persists at least 12 weeks after diagnostic venous test</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead Education: Dietary &amp; Environmental</li> <li>Continued BLL monitoring</li> <li>Complete history and physical exam</li> <li>Lab work: Hemoglobin or hematocrit; Iron status</li> <li>Environmental Lead Investigation</li> <li>Lead hazard reduction</li> <li>Neurodevelopmental monitoring</li> <li>Abdominal X-ray (if particulate lead ingestion is suspected) with bowel decontamination if indicated</li> <li>Contact a Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) or poison control center (1-800-222-1222) for assistance.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead Education: Dietary &amp; Environmental</li> <li>Continued BLL monitoring</li> <li>Complete history and physical exam</li> <li>Complete neurological exam</li> <li>Lab work: Hemoglobin or hematocrit; Iron status; FFP or ZPP</li> <li>Environmental Lead Investigation</li> <li>Lead hazard reduction</li> <li>Neurodevelopmental monitoring</li> <li>Abdominal X-ray with bowel decontamination if indicated</li> <li>If signs or symptoms of blood lead poisoning, admit</li> <li>Hospitalize and Commence Chelation Therapy, if indicated*</li> <li>Contact a Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) or poison control center (1-800-222-1222) for assistance.</li> </ol>

\*Childhood Lead Poisoning Guidelines. Go to [www.dshs.state.tx.us/lead/screening.htm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lead/screening.htm). \*The higher the blood lead level on the screening test, the more urgent the need for diagnostic testing. †Healthcare providers should consult with an expert in the management of blood lead levels before administering chelation. Chelation therapy should never be administered before a venous diagnostic is obtained.

Tables adapted from Recommended Actions Based on Blood Lead Level Center for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/ceh/lead/leadinfo/actions4tbl.htm>

Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
PDR#K 149347 • Austin, TX 78714-9347 • 1-800-588-1248 • [www.dshs.texas.gov/lead](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/lead)  
(Rev. March 2024)

**Lead Risk Questionnaire** Pb-110

**Purpose:** To identify children who need to be tested for lead exposure.

**Instructions**

- If Yes or Don't Know, test the child immediately.
- You may administer a blood lead test instead of using this questionnaire.
- For more information, contact the Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at: 1-800-588-1248.

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Medicaid #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provider's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Administered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions**

Questions	Yes or Don't Know	No
1. Does your child live in or visit a home, day-care or other building built before 1978?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does your child live in or visit a home, day-care or other building with ongoing repairs or remodeling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Does your child eat or chew on non-food things like paint chips or dirt?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Does your child have a family member or friend who has or did have an elevated blood lead level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is your child a newly arrived refugee or foreign adoptee?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Does your child come in contact with an adult whose job or hobby involves lead exposure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Examples</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House construction or repair</li> <li>• Battery manufacturing or repair</li> <li>• Burning lead-painted wood</li> <li>• Automotive repair shop or junk yard</li> <li>• Going to a firing range or reloading bullets</li> <li>• Chemical preparation</li> <li>• Valve and pipe fittings</li> <li>• Brass/copper foundry</li> <li>• Refinishing furniture</li> <li>• Welding</li> <li>• Radiator repair</li> <li>• Pottery making</li> <li>• Lead smelting</li> <li>• Making fishing weights</li> </ul>		
7. Does your family use products from other countries such as pottery, health remedies, spices, or food?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Examples</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional medicines such as Ayurvedic, greta, azarcón, alarcón, alkohi, bali goli, coral, ghasard, liga, pay-loo-ah, and rueda</li> <li>• Cosmetics such as kohl, surma, and sindor</li> <li>• Imported or glazed pottery, imported candy, and imported nutritional pills other than vitamins.</li> <li>• Foods canned or packaged outside the U.S.</li> </ul>		

**Test Immediately**

Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program • Texas Department of State Health Services  
PO BOX 149347 • Austin, TX 78714-9347 • 1-800-588-1248 • [www.dshs.texas.gov/lead](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/lead)  
(Rev. Aug. 2018)

## Reporting

Reporting blood lead tests is an important component after testing is done. Providers should know that all blood lead test results must be reported to the state by the testing provider and the lab. Texas law requires the following information to be reported:

- (1) the child's name, address, date of birth or age, sex, race and ethnicity;
- (2) the child's blood lead level concentration, test date, and name and telephone number of the testing laboratory;
- (3) whether the sample is capillary or venous blood; and
- (4) the name and city of the attending physician.

Having this information helps the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch proceed with case coordination/medical case management in a more timely and effective manner. There are two ways that test results can be reported, electronically or by hardcopy submission. Electronic reports can be submitted through the Globalscape Secure File Transfer Protocol (sFTP). This method is ideal for large reports or bulk data files such as LeadCareII or Electronic Health Records (EHR). If the reporting facility does not use LeadCareII or EHR, the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch will provide a reporting form spreadsheet to use. If a hardcopy is being used, reporters can fax in the "[F09-11709 Child Blood Lead Reporting Form](#)" to DSHS at 512-776-7699. This fax must include the actual lab report from EHR/lab with the patient demographics as listed above.



### Childhood Blood Lead Level Report F09-11709

#### Confidential Medical Record

<b>Fax or Mail Form To:</b> Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Texas Department of State Health Services PO Box 149347, MC1964 Austin, TX 78714 Fax Number: (512) 776-7699		If Using Custom Address Stamp, Stamp Here	
<b>Child Information</b>			
Child's Last Name		First Name	
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		Social Security #	
Gender: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Ethnicity: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Child Race: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Native American or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		Medicaid #	
Current Address:			
Telephone		City	
State		Zip	
<b>Blood Lead Level Information</b>			
Test Date (mm/dd/yyyy)		Blood Lead Level (µ/dL)	
Testing Laboratory Name		Sample Type (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Capillary <input type="checkbox"/> Venous <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Laboratory Phone		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Laboratory City		LeadCare II (check one)	
If Using LeadCare System, Place Label Here			
<b>Healthcare Provider Information</b>			
Provider Last Name		First Name	
Clinic Name		Middle Name	
Phone #		Fax #	
Clinic Address:			
City		Suite #	
State		Zip	

# National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

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This year National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is October 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. The goal for NLPPW each year is to bring together community stakeholders and aim to reduce childhood exposure by increasing prevention efforts and bringing awareness. Each year the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development team up to create materials and an [information kit](#) that can help promote this initiative. The information kit can be downloaded from the EPA website. It can be used and customized to meet the needs of different communities.

The theme for 2024 is “Bright Futures begin lead-free”, because we all want bright futures for our children and communities. Key messages for NLPPW include:

1. **Get the Facts:** Lead is still a problem in many communities. Learn about lead exposure, lead hazards, and how you can protect you and your family.
2. **Get Your Child Tested:** A blood test is the best way to find out if your child has lead poisoning. Talk to your child’s healthcare provider about getting a blood lead test if your child may have been exposed to lead.
3. **Get Your Home Tested:** Minimize your risk of lead exposure by hiring a certified professional to test your home for lead if it was built before 1978.



## Current Lead Related Recalls

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### Red ToolBox Stanley-Branded Jr. Kids Wheelbarrow and 7-piece Garden Sets

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a recall on the garden set due to the long hoe and rake having levels of lead that exceed the federal lead paint ban, posing a hazard to children if ingested. There were over 500,000 sets recalled on September 12, 2024, between the U.S and Canada. If one of these has been purchased, they can be replaced by the company.

### Newmemo Children's Ring Sets

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a recall on the Newmemo ring sets sold exclusively on Amazon. These rings contain levels of lead that exceed the federal lead ban and levels of cadmium that are prohibited in children's products by the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. If ingested, these can cause adverse health effects in children. The recall was issued on September 19, 2024, affecting around 2,200 units. Amazon will issue a refund as the remedy for the recall.



# Lead Testing in School and Child Care

## Program: A Featured article by Katherine Melito from TCEQ

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Water may be a common source of lead exposure and drinking water may contain lead from pipes, taps, solder, and other plumbing materials making it easy for children to be exposed if these go untested. This is especially important to do in schools where children spend a lot of time. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)'s Lead Testing in School and Child Care (LTSCC) Program is a voluntary statewide program that provides free lead testing and remediation support to help reduce childhood exposure to lead in drinking water. This program is made possible by a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

All Texas public schools (K-12) and state-regulated child care facilities are eligible to participate. The following benefits are provided to enrolled participants at no cost:

- **Extensive water sampling.** Sample kits are provided to all enrolled facilities, and every water outlet that children use for drinking, teeth brushing, or where food is prepared can be sampled. Lead levels can vary between water outlets, so it is important to test all potable water locations.
- **On-site support.** Program field technicians can be sent to collect water samples at your facilities if requested.
- **Follow-up support.** The program can provide remediation support, including free pitcher filters, if lead is detected. Additional follow-up testing is also available as needed.
- **Communications support.** Program staff is available to assist with questions from the community. Materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Schools and child care facilities across the state are currently enrolled in the program and are working to reduce childhood lead exposure. We encourage you to enroll!

For more information, please visit the program webpage at [texasleadtesting.org](http://texasleadtesting.org), email [info@txleadtesting.org](mailto:info@txleadtesting.org), or call the helpline at (512) 957-0439.

