



# Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

## Referral Intervention Process

### Universal Blood Lead Screening

Screen all children from 9 months to 6 years old for lead poisoning at least once annually. Two blood lead screenings are required by law for all children by 3 years old.

#### For a child between 9 and 36 months of age

- Screen once between 9 and 15 months of age, and
- Screen again 12 months later, between 21 and 36 months of age. Provide the family with “Understanding your lead level” flyer with all lead screenings

If the child has an elevated blood lead level, follow the Recommended Actions.

#### For a child between 3 and 6 years old

- If a child was screened at least twice prior to 3 years old, and any test was greater than or equal to 3.5 µg/dL, continue to order a blood lead test at least once a year until the child is 6 years old.
- If a child was screened at least twice prior to 3 years old and **ALL** tests were lower than 3.5 µg/dL, the Risk Assessment Questions below can be used instead of a blood lead test to screen for lead.
- If a child was **NOT** screened at least twice prior to 3 years old, **order a blood lead test**. If the blood lead level is higher than or equal to 3.5 µg/dL, follow the recommended actions and screen annually.
- If the blood lead level is lower than 3.5 µg/dL, the Risk Assessment Questions below can be used instead of a blood lead test, to screen for lead, in the future.

**Note:** Children who are developmentally delayed should receive blood lead screening tests at intervals appropriate for their developmental age.

### Risk Assessment Questions

If the answer to ANY of these questions is YES, order a blood lead test. If the answer to ALL of these questions is NO, blood lead testing can be discontinued, but the Risk Assessment Questions should be asked annually until the child is age 6.

1. Does your child live in or regularly visit a house built before 1978 with peeling or chipping paint (daycare center, pre-school, home of babysitter, friend, or relative)?
2. Does your child live in or regularly visit a house built before 1978 that has been renovated or remodeled in the last six months?
3. Does your child have a brother, sister, housemate, or playmate who has or did have lead poisoning?
4. Does your child live near an active smelter, battery recycling plant, or other industry likely to release lead?
5. Does your child live with an adult whose job (e.g., construction, painting) or hobby (e.g., pottery, stained glass, furniture refinishing, automotive bodywork, or boat refinishing) involves exposure to lead?

### Schedule for Confirmation of Venous Test After Capillary Test

Capillary Screening Test Result or Blood Lead Level (BLL)	Perform Venous Test Within
0-3.4 µg/dL	No Confirmation Needed
3.5-19 µg/dL	Three Months
20-44 µg/dL	One Week
>45 µg/dL	Immediately

### Recommended Actions for Primary Care Providers

Venous BLL Result	Recommended Actions
< 3.5 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide lead education</li> <li>• Assess for lead exposure risk at every well-child visit using the Risk Assessment Questions.</li> </ul>
3.5-4.9 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retest in three months.</li> <li>• Explain child’s lead level to parents.</li> <li>• Assess nutritional status.</li> <li>• Test siblings younger than age six.</li> <li>• Provide lead education. For brochures, go to <a href="https://health.ri.gov/order/publications/">https://health.ri.gov/order/publications/</a></li> </ul>
5-19 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow same recommendations for venous BLL 3.5-4.9 µg/dl.</li> <li>• Inform family that the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has referred them to a lead center for non-medical case management services and lead center will follow up.</li> </ul>
20-44 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow same recommendations for venous BLL 5-19 µg/dl.</li> <li>• Refer for medical evaluation and treatment.</li> <li>• St. Joseph Lead Clinic: 401-519-3502</li> </ul>
≥ 45 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow same recommendations for services for venous BLL 5-19 µg/dl.</li> <li>• Repeat immediately as stat lab test. If test result is ≥ 45 µg/dl consider hospitalization.</li> <li>• Follow up test in one week</li> </ul>

### Questions?

**RIDOH Health Information Line:** 401-222-5960

**Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:**  
[health.ri.gov/lead](http://health.ri.gov/lead)

**Rhode Island Lead Center**

**Blackstone Valley Community Action:** 401-723-4520