



MEMORANDUM

To: Maine Pediatric Providers and Medical Office Practice Managers
From: Nirav D. Shah, Director, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Date: October 2022
Re: Changes to Pediatric Blood Lead Testing Guidelines and Expanded Lead Exposure Reduction Services

Maine CDC will begin offering services to children with confirmed blood lead levels 3.5 - <5 µg/dL starting in Winter 2022.

Please confirm all capillary blood lead levels ≥ 3.5 µg/dL with venous samples.

Maine CDC has issued updated pediatric blood lead testing guidelines.

- **New!** Providers should now conduct venous confirmatory and follow-up testing for children up to age 6 years with a blood lead level (BLL) ≥ 3.5 µg/dL. See attached for updated guidelines.
- This update aligns with U.S. CDC's recently updated blood lead reference value of 3.5 µg/dL.
- The U.S. CDC's reference value is the 97.5th percentile of the BLL distribution in U.S. children ages 1-5 years.

Maine CDC will be expanding services for children with confirmed BLLs of 3.5 ug/dL or higher.

- **New!** Starting in the Winter of 2022, Maine CDC will be offering families with children who have a confirmed venous BLL 3.5 - <5 µg/dL free home lead dust tests.
- If lead dust levels are high, Maine CDC will provide environmental investigations for lead hazards and case management services to prevent further exposure.
- For children with confirmed BLL ≥ 5 µg/dL, Maine CDC will continue to provide environmental lead investigations of their home and case management services to prevent further exposure.
- The sooner providers confirm capillary blood lead tests with venous specimens, the sooner children can receive services to eliminate the source of their lead exposure.

Providers have an important role in lead poisoning prevention.

- Lead exposure remains a concern for some children because lead hazards persist in many children's homes.
- Test children for lead at ages 1 and 2 years. Maine law requires children be tested at both ages.
- Use the Blood Lead Module in ImmPact to identify children in need of lead tests.
- Educate families about lead poisoning prevention and that there is no safe BLL for children.

For more information

- Visit Maine CDC's Lead Poisoning Prevention website at <https://bit.ly/lead-providers>
- Read more about the U.S. CDC's new reference level at <https://bit.ly/3RQcZm9> _