



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
47 Independence Drive
12 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0012
Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

Quantitative Blood Lead Analysis Laboratory Submission Information Sheet

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| Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes Providers must report all results from in office blood lead testing on children up to age six to the Maine CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit (CLPPU), through ImmPact, the State of Maine's immunization registry.• CLPPU Phone: 287-4311 Fax: 287-3981 |
| Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A blood lead test is mandatory for children at one and two years of age. In office testing is allowed, please see the second page for information about the Lead Care II Instrument.• Providers must confirm all capillary blood lead levels ≥ 5 ug/dL with venous samples sent to HETL. |
| Required Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on requisition must include: test requested, patient name, DOB, address, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.• Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name, DOB or other unique identifier, and be accompanied by a HETL requisition. |
| Specimen Requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole blood: collect capillary or venous, with a minimum of 300μL |
| Collection Instructions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Venous samples MUST be collected in lead-free tan top or royal blue tubes (EDTA or sodium heparin). Capillary samples can be collected in the above tubes, or lavender top tubes.• Samples must be refrigerated until shipment. Samples can be shipped at ambient temperature.• Please see page 2 for Nine Steps To A Successful Capillary Blood Lead Screening. |
| Turn Around Time | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results are generally available within 24 hrs of specimen receipt. |
| Rejection Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specimens received without a requisition form, clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze. Specimens in poorly labeled, unlabeled, or leaking containers. Specimens transported at incorrect temperature. Venous specimens received in lavender top tubes will be rejected. Specimens not received within 14 days of collection. Specimens containing sodium citrate or containing blood clots. |
| Results | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results are reported in μg/dL.• Results less than 3μg/dL are reported as <3μg/dL.• Results will only be reported to the submitter listed on the requisition, and also to CLPPU. |
| Laboratory Testing Fee | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$25.00 |
| Applicable CPT Codes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 83655 |
| Additional Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704 Blood Lead at 287-6649• Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, Serology, and STI at 207-287-1722• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706 |



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Nine Steps To A Successful Capillary Blood Lead Screening

1. Wash the child's hand or foot thoroughly with soap and warm water. This step is very important to reduce the chance of a false positive due to contamination from a dirty finger
2. Put on gloves
3. With the child's hand or foot facing up, place your thumb across the child's fingers/toes, keeping the tip of the fingers/toes exposed. Use the child's middle or ring finger/toe to take the specimen.
4. Clean the chosen finger/toe with an alcohol swab for 20 seconds, wipe dry with a sterile gauze pad. Again, this step is very important to reduce the chance of a false positive due to contamination from a dirty finger
5. Use the lancet to prick the finger/toe slightly off center
6. Apply moderate pressure slightly behind the puncture site to obtain a drop of blood. Allow the drop of blood to fall into the collection tube. DO NOT scrape the top of the collection tube over the puncture site
7. Release the pressure to allow recirculation, repeat step 6 and continue collecting blood until it reaches the first line of the collection tube (300µl)
 - a. 300µl will allow for a duplicate analysis should it become necessary
8. Replace the cap and invert the tube approximately 20 times
9. Send the specimen to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory

Information on using the Lead Care II Instrument

1. Providers can submit blood lead samples to the State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory or perform capillary blood lead analysis using a CLIA waived in-office blood lead testing device and directly report all test results to CLPPU.
2. Providers must have approval from the MCLPPU before they can begin in-office testing.
3. A venous test must be performed prior to initiation of CLPPU services.
4. For more information, please go to:
<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmentalhealth/eohp/lead/providers.shtml#howtotest>