

Childhood Lead Poisoning Screening in Florida: Quick Reference for Medical Professionals

Provide a blood lead test to:

- Children living in high-risk zip codes at ages 1 and 2.** A high-risk area is defined as a census blockgroup with $\geq 27\%$ pre-1950 housing or $\geq 74\%$ pre-1970 housing. Consult Florida Department of Health geographic information maps for high-risk areas and associated zip codes (<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/Lead/CountyMap.html>).
- Older children, up to 6, in high risk areas who did not receive a blood lead test by age 2.**
- Children under age 6 that answer “yes” to one of the questions on the Florida Department of Health’s Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire** (opposite page).
- Medicaid eligible children at 12 and 24 months of age, and between the ages of 36 months and 72 months of age if they have not been previously screened for lead poisoning.** (Blood lead screening for Medicaid eligible children is a federal requirement).
- All refugee and immigrant children from 6 months to 16 years old upon entry to the United States.*** Repeat blood lead testing of all refugee children 6 months to 6 years of age 3 to 6 months after children are placed in permanent residences. Older children should also receive a follow-up test if warranted by poor nutritional status and the presence of risk factors.
- Children adopted from outside the U.S.***
- Children in foster care.**

Follow-up testing:

- **Children found to have an initial capillary blood lead level of ≥ 10 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) require a confirmation test. A venous sample is preferred.**
- **Children with elevated blood lead levels in the following categories should receive associated medical follow-up:**

Blood Lead Level	Follow-up venous testing	Recommended actions
10-14 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Within 3 months	Notify parents/guardians and obtain environmental history; provide health education & nutritional guidance. Report to local county health department.
15-19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Within 2 months	Same as above; screen siblings and household members under age 6.
20-44 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Within 1 month	Same as above; conduct medical evaluation and history.
45-69 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Within 48 hours	Same as above; assess for lead poisoning symptoms; consider Succimer treatment.
≥ 70 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Admit to hospital; repeat testing 1-3 weeks after discharge	Hospitalize and initiate chelation therapy.

* Physicians: Lead may still be used in paint, gasoline or other products in many countries. Screening these children is a precaution.



Lead Poisoning Risk Assessment Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS: This questionnaire is for use with children under 6 years old. Please administer this questionnaire at every annual check-up.

A “yes” or “unknown” response to any question indicates the child is at risk for lead poisoning and should receive a blood lead test and appropriate follow-up.

Question	Yes or No
1. Does your child live in or regularly visit (once a week or more) any house or building built before 1978?	
2. Does your child live in or regularly visit any house or building that has recently undergone renovation or contains vinyl miniblinds, lead pipes, pipes with lead solder joints, or had metal pipes replaced or repaired within the last five years?	
3. Does your child have a mother, sibling or playmate that has or did have lead poisoning?	
4. Does your child frequently come into contact with an adult whose job or hobby involves exposure to lead? Occupations: building renovation • battery factory or recycling • auto or radiator repair • highway bridge sandblasting or painting • welding metal structures • wire cable cutting Hobbies: refinishing furniture • home renovation • casting bullets • auto battery or radiator repair • making stained glass, ceramics, toy soldiers, dive weights, or fishing weights	
5. Does your child eat food or drink fluids that were stored in leaded crystal, imported ceramic, or pewter dishes?	
6. Does your child have contact with cosmetics, kohl, candies, spices, jewelry, ceramic dishware and home (or folk) remedies not made in the United States?	
7. Does your child play in loose soil, near a busy road or near any industrial sites such as a battery recycling plant, junk yard or lead smelter?	
8. Have you ever seen your child eat dirt or mouth on painted surfaces, paint chips, toy jewelry or vinyl miniblinds?	
9. Has your child recently visited another country for an extended period of time, lived in a foster care home or in a country other than the United States?	



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