

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.