

# Lead Poisoning Testing Recommendations

## 1 INITIAL SCREENING Capillary Blood Lead Test

- **Screen** all children at age 1 and 2 or before age 6 if not screened at age 2, or if child has moved into or visits a home built before 1978. (Most homes inside the I-270 outerbelt are pre-1978.)
- **Conduct** via finger-prick or heel-prick.
- **If results are  $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$**  (CDC's Blood Lead Reference Value), proceed to step 2.

## 2 CONFIRMATORY TESTING Venous Blood Lead Test

- **Use a venous draw** for confirmation if initial results are  $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ .
  - *If initial screening used a venous sample, no need for another draw.*
- **Urgency depends** on initial capillary result:
  - **$\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$  to  $44 \mu\text{g/dL}$ :** Test within 2 weeks.
  - **$\geq 45 \mu\text{g/dL}$ :** Test immediately to within 48 hours.
  - *Refer client to the Nationwide Children's Hospital Emergency Department for treatment or confirmatory venous blood test if the service is not otherwise immediately available.*
- **If results are  $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ ,** proceed to step 3.

## 3 FOLLOW-UP MONITORING Venous Blood Lead Tests

- **$\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$  to  $9.9 \mu\text{g/dL}$** 
  - Test every 3 months for the first 2 to 4 tests
  - With significant and continuous lead blood level decrease, test every 6 to 9 months.
  - Continue until level drops below  $3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ .
- **$\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$** 
  - Test every month for the first 2 to 4 tests.
  - With significant and continuous lead blood level decrease, test every 3 to 6 months.
  - Continue until level drops below  $3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ .

## Medical Management Recommendations

- Blood lead screening is Ohio Law for children at age 1 and 2 and as indicated before age 6. Only religious exemptions apply.
- Assess iron status. Also consider status of hemoglobin or hematocrit. Children with low iron levels can absorb up to 50% more lead. Follow ODH and CDC guidelines.
- Consult with the regional Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (call 513-803-3688) or Poison Control Center (call 800-686-1516) for expert advice.