

TO: Vermont Health Care Professionals
FROM: Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD

Updated Pediatric Blood Lead Testing Guidelines

BACKGROUND:

As of July 1, 2022, Vermont’s [Pediatric Blood Lead Testing Guidelines](#) requires **any detected and reported level of lead to be monitored**, compared with the current requirement to confirm and monitor levels at 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) and above. No level of lead exposure or blood lead level is safe, and even low levels can impact neurodevelopment.

REQUESTED ACTION:

When to Confirm Capillary Blood Lead Tests

If Capillary Blood Lead Level is:	Confirm with Venous Test Within:
No detected lead (DL)*	Confirmation not needed
Any DL – 3.4 µg/dL	Within 6 months (capillary sample or venous)
3.5 – 9 µg/dL	Within 3 months
10 – 19 µg/dL	Within 1 month
20 – 44 µg/dL	Within 2 weeks
45 – 59 µg/dL	48 hours
60+ µg/dL	Immediately as an emergency test

When to Follow Up with a Venous Re-test

If Venous Blood Lead Level is:	Follow-Up	Late Follow-Up (blood lead level declining)
No detected lead (DL)*	Venous re-test not required	
Any DL – 3.4 µg/dL	6 – 9 months	
3.5 – 9 µg/dL	3 months	6 – 9 months
10 – 19 µg/dL	1 – 3 months	3 – 6 months
20 – 44 µg/dL	2 weeks – 1 month	1 – 3 months
45+ µg/dL	Initiate chelation and re-test in 7 – 21 days	As clinically indicated

*Detection limit varies across laboratories from <1 µg/dL to 3.3 µg/dL

Any level of lead in the blood is considered elevated. The Health Department will offer phone education and environmental inspection (as needed) for venous confirmed lead levels.

State law requires that all Vermont children are tested for lead at 12 months old and again at 24 months old. Children ages 36 to 72 months who have not previously been tested should also be tested. All parents or guardians should be given the Health Department's [What Your Child's Lead Test Means](#) when they are being tested for lead, regardless of the test results.

Resources:

[Pediatric Blood Lead Testing & Case Management Guidelines](#)

[What Your Child's Lead Test Means](#)

[Lead Poisoning Prevention Fact Sheet](#)

[Website](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or vthan@vermont.gov.

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.