



Pueblo City-County Health Department
 101 W 9th Street
 Pueblo CO 81003-4103
 (719) 583-4300
 www.pueblohealthdept.org

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR
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BLOOD LEAD LEVEL SCREENING

Make Blood Lead Screening for lead poisoning a part of your routine clinical practice.

PRACTICE TIPS

No level of lead in the blood is safe. Experts now use a reference level of 5.0 µg/dL to identify children with reportable blood lead levels. This reference value is based on the 97.5 percentile of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)'s blood lead distribution in children.

Roles of health-care providers in Lead Poisoning Prevention

- ◇ Use and disseminate lead education information from state and local public health agencies
- ◇ Use your local or state Health Department's lead screening tool to identify potential sources of exposure and pathways of absorption (e.g., transplacental, percutaneous, respiratory tract, and gastrointestinal)
- ◇ Perform routine blood lead screening, as recommended, especially for children and pregnant women
- ◇ Provide diagnostic and follow-up testing for children with abnormal Blood Lead Levels (send results to PCCHD)**
- ◇ Provide clinical management, education and nutritional guidance for families when appropriate (e.g., recommend a diet rich in Vitamin C, Iron and Calcium)
- ◇ Collaborate with public health agencies for case management guidance and environmental testing

PCCHD Proposed Superfund Site Screening:

Using a blood lead test by venipuncture, screen children up to 16 years of age who have not been previously screened, as well as, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age up to age 44, if they reside within the designated area and meet one or more of the following public health criteria:

- ◇ Geographic designated area of Eiler's, Bessemer (near I-25 and north of Northern Ave.)
- ◇ Spending 3 or more 8 hour days in the designated area (e.g., Day care, work)
- ◇ Residing in a home/apartment built before 1978 in the designated area
- ◇ High-risk group (e.g., Medicaid recipients, or immigrant children)
- ◇ Occupational or hobby exposure (e.g., construction, welding, airport, home improvement)

Who should be tested?

- ◇ **Medicaid Children:** required at 12 months and 24 months of age (highest risk)
- ◇ **Children between the ages of 1-6 years:** recommended for all children who have not been tested or children with a positive lead exposure history (highest risk)
- ◇ **Pregnant women and women of child bearing age up to age 44:** All who have not been previously tested or who have been exposed
- ◇ **Living in or near a designated area:** Proposed/Superfund site, old smelter site

Reportable BLLs & exposure limits	Requirements for testing and follow-up*:
≥ 5.0 µg/dL (Reportable)	CHILDREN (up to age 16) PREGNANT WOMEN & WOMEN OF CHILD BEARING AGE (up to age 44)
≥ 10.0 µg/dL (Reportable)	ADULTS (17 years of age or older)
≥ 25.0 µg/m ³ (8hr/day)	WOMEN OCCUPATIONAL
≥ 50.0 µg/m ³ (8hr/day)	GENERAL OCUPATIONAL

* Retest children up to age 16 with a result < 5.0 µg/dL within 6-12 months. If they are <12 months in age retest within 3-6 months.

* Re-test in 1-3 months if result is ≥ 5.0 µg/dL. If level is stable re-test in 3 months. Take an environmental history and provide education to reduce exposure.

* Re-test within 48 hours if result is ≥ 44.0 µg/dL re-test within 48 hours and consider hospitalization and/or chelation.

** Send abnormal results (> 0µg/dL) to PCCHD clinic to Jenna Ward (719) 583-4431 or email: ward@co.pueblo.co.us or FAX: (719) 583-4375