

# Strategies to Increase Blood Lead Screening and Testing

## Provide Anticipatory Guidance



- Provide anticipatory guidance during well-child visits and encourage parents to get their child tested for lead.
- Remind families with Medi-Cal that lead testing is required along with their vaccinations.
- Remind parents to bring their child's records of prior blood lead tests to their well-child visits (see last CDPH publication: Blood Lead Testing Record).



## Actions for In-Person Visits

- Talk with parents about the importance of testing for lead, listen to their feelings and concerns, and encourage them to have their child tested using simple, everyday language.
- Provide written information to the parents about lead exposure and testing in the family's preferred language.
- Reassure the parents that blood lead testing at age 1 and 2 (and up to age 6) is important for the health of their child.

## Ensure Blood Draws Are Easily Accessible and Reinforce Follow-Ups



- Perform an in-office blood draw and send the sample to the lab.
- Refer parents to a lab within easy walking distance of the office.
- Make sure to review blood test results timely and talk about the result with the family.



## Tips For Telehealth Visits

- Talk with parents about the importance of testing for lead, listen to their feelings and concerns, and encourage them to have their child tested using simple, everyday language.
- Encourage and provide support for families to get blood testing after the telehealth visit.
- Send reminders for blood lead testing by mail, text, or phone after the telehealth visit.

# Resources

## California Health Care Provider Mandates

### Anticipatory Guidance

**Required for all children at each periodic assessment from 6 months to 6 years.**

Health care providers are required to provide anticipatory guidance, informing parents and guardians about:

- The risks and effects of childhood lead exposure.
- The requirement that children in Medi-Cal should be blood lead tested.
- The requirement that children not in Medi-Cal who are at high risk of lead exposure should also be blood lead tested.

### Screen (Blood lead test)

**All children in publicly funded programs for low-income children such as Medi-Cal and Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at both 12 months and 24 months of age, and order catch up testing if missed at either 12 or 24 months.**

### Assess

If a child is **not** in a publicly funded program for low-income children, at both 12 and 24 months of age: **Ask:** "Does your child live in, or spend a lot of time in, a place built before 1978 that has peeling or chipped paint or that has been recently remodeled?"

**If answer is "yes" or "don't know", order a blood lead test.**



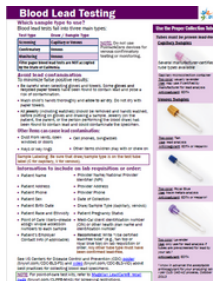
## Publications

To order free printed materials for providers and patients, including the materials below, please contact your local Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program\*. If your county does not have a local program, contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch (CLPPB) directly at [CLPPB\\_Provider\\_Materials@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CLPPB_Provider_Materials@cdph.ca.gov).

Scan the QR\*\* code for all publications for providers:



Standard of Care and Potential Sources of Lead



Blood Lead Testing



Management Guidelines for Health Care Providers



Blood Lead Testing Record

\*<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/Pages/CLPPPIndex.aspx>

\*\*[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/Pages/Publications for Providers.aspx#pubprov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/Pages/Publications%20for%20Providers.aspx#pubprov)