

Cuyahoga County

Lead Testing Requirements and Medical Management Recommendations for Children Ages 6 to 72 Months

There is no safe level of lead in the blood.

Any confirmed level of lead in the blood is a reliable indicator that the child has been exposed to lead.

When should you test children's blood lead levels? *Ohio Department of Health Recommendations*

Administer two tests at age 1 and 2 years, or up to age 6 years if no test has been administered before (or as medically necessary) based on the following criteria.	
1.	Is the child on Medicaid? If yes, TEST — IT'S OHIO LAW AND A FEDERAL REQUIREMENT. If no, go to step 2.
2.	Does the child live in a High Risk ZIP Code (Cleveland and inner-ring suburbs)? Zip code list at www.odh.ohio.gov . If yes, TEST — IT'S OHIO LAW! If no, go to step 3.
3.	Ask the parent five key questions to assess risk. Use the Risk Assessment Questionnaire (RAQ) and ask if the child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lives in or regularly visits a house built before 1950? This includes a day care center, preschool, or home of a baby sitter or relative. • Lives in or visits a house that has peeling, chipping, dusting or chalking paint? • Lives in or visits a house built before 1978 with recent, ongoing, or planned renovation/remodeling? • Has a sibling or playmate who has or did have lead poisoning? • Frequently comes in contact with an adult who has a hobby or works with lead? Examples are construction, welding, pottery, painting, and casting ammunition.
If the family answers "yes" or "do not know" to any of the above questions, TEST. If the family answers "no," provide anticipatory guidance and follow up at the next visit.	

All blood lead test results, by law, are required to be reported to ODH by the analyzing laboratory.

What should you do with the test results? *Cuyahoga County Health Departments' Recommendations*

Blood Lead Levels (BLL)	Recommended Medical Management Actions
0-4 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat test annually between the ages of 1 year and 4 years for at risk children.
5-9 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide family lead education • Provide follow-up testing within 2-3 months • Refer for social services if necessary
10-19 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide family lead education • Provide follow-up testing within 2-3 months if test was performed on venous sample or within 1 month if on capillary sample • Refer for social services if necessary
≥ 20 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent follow-up testing • Detailed medical evaluation • Social service referrals • Chelation therapy

How are these recommendations different from those of the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health?

Federal and state efforts focus on children with levels of ≥ 10 µg/dL. However, cities and counties can adopt lower action thresholds. Given the magnitude of the lead toxicity problem in our region and recent scientific evidence about adverse effects of lead at lower levels, we recommend a new awareness threshold of 5µg/dL.