



Childhood lead poisoning is the most preventable environmental disease among young children. There is no safe blood lead level.

In 2019, there were 756 confirmed cases of elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs) in Virginia children under the age of 16.



The current blood lead reference value is 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

The Virginia Department of Health's disease reporting requirements state that: (1) **any** detectable blood lead level in children **15 years of age and younger** and (2) **all** levels greater than or equal to 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in persons older than 15 years of age are reportable. It is important to **report your blood lead test results to the VDH.**

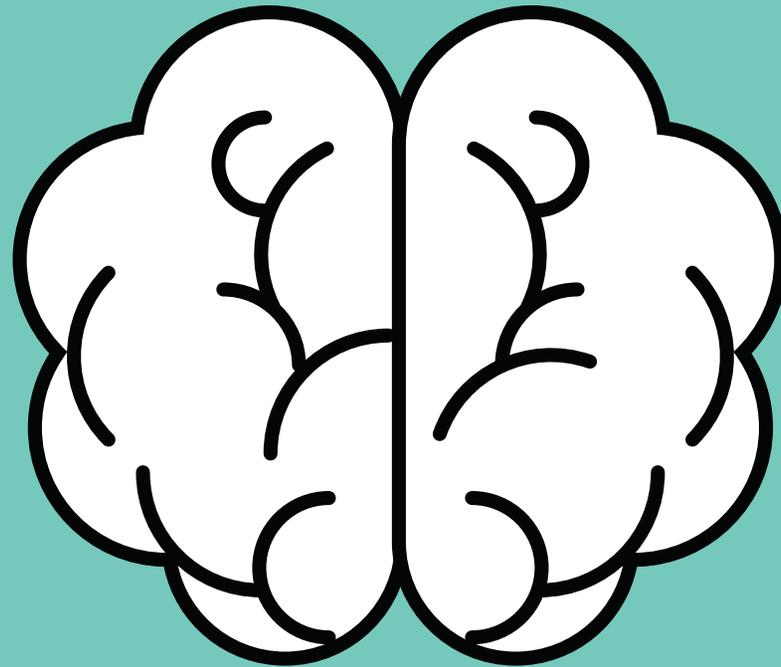
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www.vdh.virginia.gov/leadsafe/

VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

Information and Guidelines for
Childhood Blood Lead Testing



Children in any of the following risk categories should have their blood tested at 12 months and 24 months:

01 The child is eligible for or receiving benefits from Medicaid or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

02 The child is living in or regularly visiting a house, apartment, dwelling, structure, or child care facility built before 1960.

03 The child is living in or regularly visiting a house, apartment, dwelling, structure, or child care facility built before 1978 that has (i) peeling or chipping paint or (ii) recent (within the last six months) ongoing or planned renovations.

04 The child is living in or regularly visiting a house, apartment, dwelling, or other structure in which one or more persons have blood lead testing yielding evidence of lead exposure.

05 The child is living with an adult whose job, hobby, or other activity involves exposure to lead.

06 The child is living near an active lead smelter, battery recycling plant, or other industry likely to release lead.

07 The child's parent, guardian, or other person standing in loco parentis requests the child's blood be tested due to any suspected exposure.

08 The child is a recent refugee or immigrant or is adopted from outside of the United States.



Pregnancy & Lead

➔ Elevated lead levels in pregnancy have been associated with adverse outcomes for both maternal and fetal health.

➔ Pregnant women who are at increased risk for lead exposure should be screened for lead.

Pregnant women are at risk of lead exposure if any of the following are true:

- They live in a home built before 1978.
- They are a recent immigrant or refugee.
- They use imported pottery or ceramics to prepare and store food.
- They have old plumbing and pipes in their home.
- They live with someone who has a job or hobby that may expose them to lead, such as welding, metalwork, building renovation, stained glass, casting, or soldering.
- They developed pica (eating or putting non-food items in their mouth) during pregnancy.
- They use traditional folk remedies or cosmetics.