



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

In 2024, there were over one thousand newly reported cases of blood lead levels at or above the CDC reference value in Virginia children under the age of 16.



**The current blood lead reference value is 3.5 µg/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 µg/dL in persons older than 15 years of age are reportable. It is required to **report blood lead test results to the Virginia Department of Health.**

**LEARN MORE:**

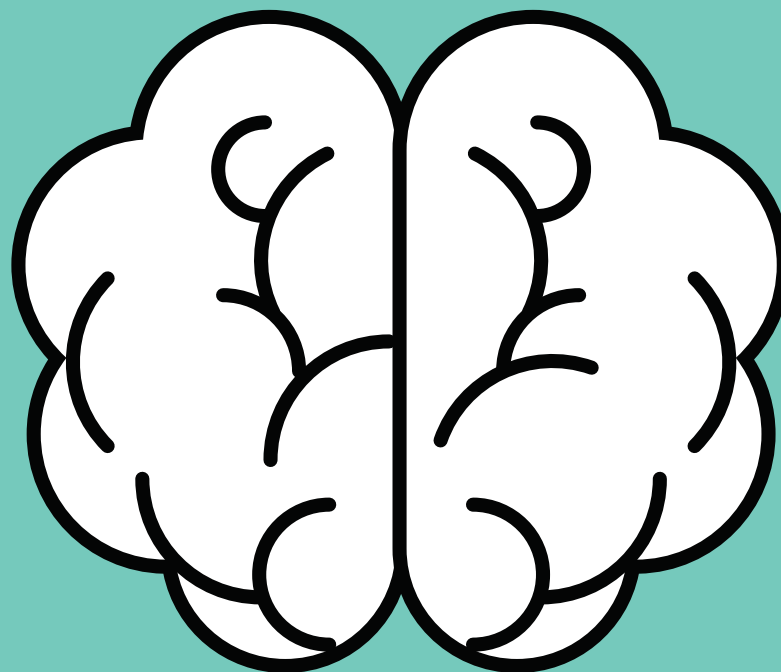
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**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH



# 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.