

## QUICK GUIDE TO PEDIATRIC BLOOD LEAD TESTING – WASHINGTON STATE

### BLL TESTING – WHO?

12 & 24 months – all Medicaid eligible children  
12 & 24 months – all children with risk factors for exposure  
All other children – clinical judgement (suspected exposure, neurodevelopmental disorder)

### BLL TEST RESULT – WHAT NEXT?

#### < 3.5 µg/dL

- Prevention counseling: know the common pediatric lead exposure sources. \*
- Future lead testing: see *BLL TESTING - WHO?*

#### ≥ 3.5-19 µg/dL

*Follow recommendations for BLL < 3.5 µg/dL AND:*

- Identify lead exposure source: know common exposure sources and take exposure history.
- Exposure mitigation and prevention counseling based on suspected source(s).
- Nutritional assessment: determine if iron deficient or anemic (e.g., CBC or HCT/Hb, ferritin, CRP)
- Plan follow-up BLL testing (see testing tables).
- Neurodevelopmental enrichment: EBLL is indication for a Birth to 3 referral in King County.
- Add “lead exposure” to problem list in EMR: recognize increased risk of future behavioral and cognitive health needs.

#### 20-44 µg/dL

*Follow recommendations for BLL ≥ 3.5-19 µg/dL AND:*

- Contact the NW PEHSU or Poison Control Center for additional guidance.
- Consider abdominal x-ray based on history (suspect ingestion of lead contaminated FB?)
- Gastrointestinal decontamination if radiopaque foreign bodies consistent with ingested lead are visualized on x-ray.
- Plan follow-up BLL testing (see testing tables).

#### ≥ 45 µg/dL

**EMERGENCY**

- Contact the Poison Control Center or a certified Pediatric Medical Toxicologist for immediate assistance.
- Identify suspected exposure source. Take exposure history and complete full physical exam.
- Determine if child is symptomatic (e.g., abdominal colic, neurological compromise).
- Chelation therapy indicated: inpatient or outpatient treatment determined based on child’s symptoms and if home environment is lead-safe.
- If BLL is ≥ 65 µg/dL hospitalize even if asymptomatic.
- Prepare for chelation therapy: obtain CBC, electrolytes, BUN, Cr, LFTs, and urinalysis. Obtain abdominal x-ray to look for radiopaque foreign bodies.

Once the lab reports the BLL results to WA DOH, WA DOH will alert the local health department to BLLs that exceed the Blood Lead Reference Value (≥ 3.5 µg/dL). The local health departments will then contact the family, and in many cases conduct a home visit to identify sources, test sources and provide resources and education for mitigation.

### **Confirmatory Testing Table**

(only applicable if initial BLL was capillary)

<b>Initial Blood Lead Test Result (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}</math>):</b>	<b>Obtain a Confirmatory Venous Test Within:</b>
< 3.5	N/A. If child was < 12 months old when tested, recheck in 3-6 months as BLL may increase with mobility.
$\geq 3.5$ - <10	Within 3 months
10 - <20	Within 1 month
20 - <45	Within 2 weeks
$\geq 45$	Within 48 hours

### **Follow-up Testing Table**

<b>Venous Blood Lead Test Result (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}</math>):</b>	<b>Early follow up testing (2-4 tests after identification):</b>	<b>Later follow up testing after BLL consistently declining:</b>
$\geq 3.5$ - <10	3 months	6-9 months
10 - <20	1-3 months	3-6 months
20 – 45	2 weeks-4 weeks	1-3 months
$\geq 45$	ASAP	ASAP

### **Key Resources**

- [\\*WA DOH: Common Sources of Lead Poisoning & Steps to Mitigate Exposure](#) (English & Spanish)
- [National PEHSU Lead Medical Management Factsheet](#)
- [CDC Recommended Actions Based on BLL](#)
- [Washington Department of Health Lead Home Page](#)
- [King County Early Support for Infants and Toddlers \(ESIT\) Referral](#)

**Northwest PEHSU:** 206-221-8671; [pehsuconsultant@uw.edu](mailto:pehsuconsultant@uw.edu)

**WA Poison Control Center:** 1-800-222-1222

**Seattle Children's Hospital Medical Toxicologist:** Dr. Suzan Mazor, 206-987-2000

**PHSKC Lead Environmental Investigator:** Matt Wilson, 206-477-2125; [matt.wilson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:matt.wilson@kingcounty.gov)

**WA DOH Lead Program:** 360-236-4280; [lead@doh.wa.gov](mailto:lead@doh.wa.gov)