



South Dakota Screening, Testing, and Follow-up Guidelines

Screening and Testing

The South Dakota Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (SD CLPPP) recognizes there is **NO safe level of lead in the blood** and recommends that South Dakota health care providers to follow the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Future screening guidelines: assess all children for the risk of lead exposure at 6, 9, 12, 18, & 24 months, and at 3, 4, 5, and 6 years at well child visit. If a known or possible risk is identified, conduct a blood lead level testing.

The risk assessment questions below can help identify a possible risk of exposure to lead hazards. If the answer to any question on the Verbal Risk Assessment is **“Yes”** or **“I don’t know”**.

Risk Assessment Questions			
Question	Yes	No	I don't know
Does this child Live in a high-risk ZIP code area for lead exposure?			
Does this child live or spend time in a house built before 1978?			
Does this child live or spend time in house built before 1978 with recent or ongoing remodeling within the past year?			
Is this child eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid, Head Start, or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)?			
Is this child a recent immigrant, refugee, or foreign adoptee?			
Does this child live with parent or caregiver who has a job that causes them to have frequent contact with lead? (e.g., plumbers, construction, auto repair, metal/battery recycling, welders)?			
Does this child have developmental disabilities and persistent pica habits?			
Does this child have a sibling or playmate with a blood lead level (≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$), or parent expresses a concern about or asks for their child to be tested for lead?			

Testing Recommendations for Certain Populations

Medicaid

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recommends for Medicaid-enrolled children:

- Blood lead level testing (either capillary or venous) should be performed at 12 and 24 months of age.
- Children 36–72 months who missed recommended testing at a younger age should be tested.

Immigrants, Refugees, and Foreign Adoptees

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends initial testing for the following:

- All infants and children ≤ 16 years of age
- Adolescents >16 years of age if there is a high index of suspicion, or clinical signs/symptoms of lead exposure
- All pregnant and lactating women and girls

Follow-up testing with blood test, 3-6 months after initial testing:

- All infants and children ≤ 6 years of age, regardless of initial screening result
- Children, adolescents, and pregnant or lactating women who had a blood lead result $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$.

Timing of Follow-up Testing

For children identified with lead in blood ($\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$), the tables below will help ensure appropriate follow up.

If the Capillary Blood Lead Level is $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ follow the Recommended Schedule for a confirmatory Venous Sample

Capillary Blood Lead Level	Confirm test with venous within*
3.5 - 9 $\mu\text{g/dL}$	3 months
10- 44 $\mu\text{g/dL}$	1 month
45 - 59 $\mu\text{g/dL}$	48 hours
60 - 69 $\mu\text{g/dL}$	24 hours
$\geq 70 \mu\text{g/dL}$	Immediately as an emergency test

*The higher the BLL on the screening test, the more urgent the need for confirmatory venous test

Venous Blood Lead Levels	Follow-up Venous Test Schedule	Long-Term Follow-Up**
3.5 - 9 µg/dL	3 months	6-9 months
10- 19 µg/dL	Within 3 months	3-6 months
20 - 44 µg/dL	2 weeks–1 month	1-3 months
≥ 45 µg/dL	Repeat venous blood test Immediately	Based on chelation protocol

South Dakota Lead Poisoning Prevention Contacts

- Call: 605-773-3737 for questions regarding elevated blood lead case management.
- Fax: 605-773-5509 to send results or submit via Secure website: sd.gov/diseasereport
- Mail or courier, address to: Infectious Disease Surveillance, Department of Health, 615 East 4th Street, Pierre, SD 57501; marked "Confidential Disease Report"

Resources

- South Dakota Department of Health: <https://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/Blood-Lead/Resources.aspx>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/advisory/acclpp/actions-blls.htm>
- Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU): <https://www.denverhealth.org/services/community-health/pediatric-environmental-health-specialty-unit>
- South Dakota Poison Center: <https://sdpoison.org/>