

Initial Blood Lead Test

Healthcare providers may use a capillary or venous sample for initial BLL screening. If the capillary results are equal to or greater than 3.5ug/dL, providers should collect a venous sample.

For more information (video) on improving accuracy in capillary testing: Mission Unleaded: How to test children for lead with maximum accuracy at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1VL1p9Yaas>

Recommended Schedule for Obtaining a Confirmatory Venous Sample

Capillary Blood Lead Level (µg/dL)	Time to Confirmation Testing**
≥3.5–9	Within 3 months
10–19	Within 1 month
20–44	Within 2 weeks
≥45	Within 48 hours

**The higher the BLL is on the initial screening capillary test, the more urgent it is to get a venous sample for confirmatory testing.

Schedule for Follow-Up Venous Blood Lead Testing^a

Venous blood lead levels (µg/dL)	Early follow up testing (2–4 tests after initial test above specific venous BLLs)	Later follow up testing after BLL declining
≥3.5–9	3 months*	6–9 months
10–19	1–3 months*	3–6 months
20–44	2 weeks–1 month	1–3 months
≥45	As soon as possible	As soon as possible

^a Changes in BLLs due to seasonal weather changes may be more apparent in colder climate areas. Greater exposure in the summer months may necessitate more frequent follow ups.

*Some case managers or healthcare providers may choose to repeat blood lead tests on all new patients within a month. Repeated testing may confirm that the child's BLL is decreasing.