## Follow-Up Schedule

### Blood Lead Levels for Children Under the Age of Six

**All diagnostic (i.e., confirmation) tests should be performed as soon as possible (ASAP), but at a minimum within specified time periods.**

- **Diagnostic tests** should be venous; however, capillary tests are accepted if a venous cannot be obtained.
- Diagnostic specimens **must** be sent to an outside reference laboratory for analysis.
- Point of care (POC) blood lead analyzers (i.e., LeadCare) should **NOT** be used for diagnostic tests.
- **Follow-up (post-diagnostic) testing** can be capillary.
- CDC protocol for collecting capillary specimens should be followed (see first link below).

See [https://nchealthyhomes.com/clinical-lead-resources/](https://nchealthyhomes.com/clinical-lead-resources/) for a list of clinical resources.

Users should contact Children’s Environmental Health for further assistance.

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### Initial Blood Lead Level and Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood Lead Level</th>
<th>Response</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| < 3.50 µg/dL    | - Report blood lead test results to parents and document notification  
|                 | - Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure  
|                 |   - Retest at age 2, earlier if risk of exposure increases. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.50 – 4.99 µg/dL</th>
<th>Perform diagnostic test ASAP (but at the latest within 3 months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| If diagnostic test result is 3.50 – 4.99 µg/dL, take same action as previous category **AND**  
| - Provide clinical management  
| - Conduct nutritional assessment and refer child to the WIC Program  
| - Test other children under the age of six in same household  
| - Conduct follow-up testing every 3 months until 2 consecutive tests are < 3.50 µg/dL |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.00 – 9.99 µg/dL</th>
<th>Perform diagnostic test ASAP (but at the latest within 3 months)</th>
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</table>
| If diagnostic test result is 5.00 – 9.99 µg/dL, take same action as previous category **AND**  
| - Complete [Form 3651: Exposure History of Child with Elevated Blood Lead Level](https://nchealthyhomes.com/clinical-lead-resources/) to identify possible lead sources and fax a copy to (919) 841-4015  
| - Refer case to local health department to offer an environmental investigation  
| - Conduct follow-up testing every 3 months until 2 consecutive tests are < 3.50 µg/dL |

| 10.00 – 44.99 µg/dL | Perform diagnostic test ASAP (but at the latest within 1 month at 10.00 – 19.99 µg/dL  
|                     | and within 1 week at 20.00 – 44.99 µg/dL)  
| If diagnostic test result is 10.00 – 44.99 µg/dL, take same action as previous category **AND**  
| - Refer to local health department for required environmental investigation  
| - Refer child to CDSA* Early Intervention or CMARC** as appropriate  
| - Refer to Social Services as needed for housing or additional assistance  
| - For 10.00 – 24.99 µg/dL: Conduct follow-up testing every 1-3 months until 2 consecutive tests are < 3.50 µg/dL  
| - For 25.00 – 44.99 µg/dL: Conduct follow-up testing every 2 weeks to 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are < 3.50 µg/dL |

| 45.00 – 69.99 µg/dL | Perform diagnostic test ASAP (but at the latest within 48 hours at 45.00 - 59.99 µg/dL  
|                     | and within 24 hours at 60.00 - 69.99 µg/dL)  
| If diagnostic test result is 45.00 – 69.99 µg/dL, take same action as previous category **AND**  
| - Consult with North Carolina Poison Control (800) 222-1222 for advice on chelation and/or hospitalization  
| - Consider an abdominal X-ray check for ingested object  
| - Alert NC CLPPP by calling (919) 707-5854  
| - Conduct follow-up testing every 2 weeks to 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are < 3.50 µg/dL |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>≥ 70.00 µg/dL</th>
<th>Perform emergency diagnostic test immediately</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| If diagnostic test result is ≥ 70.00 µg/dL, take same action as previous category **AND**  
| - Hospitalize child and begin medical treatment immediately  
| - Conduct follow-up testing every 2 weeks to 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are < 3.50 µg/dL |