

# THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network  
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## NH Lowers Pediatric Blood Lead Action Level to 5 mcg/dL and Changes Elevated Blood Lead Level (BLL) Test Confirmation Schedule

### Key Points and Recommendations:

- Effective July 1, 2021, [NH RSA 130-A](#), *Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention and Control*, lowers the NH public health action level for children with elevated blood lead levels (BLL) to 5 mcg/dL; NH's action level is now consistent with CDC's blood lead reference level.
- Providers should confirm any capillary BLL test that is 5 mcg/dL or higher with a venous test in the timeframes outlined in the revised NH [Child Medical Management Quick Guide for Lead Testing & Treatment](#).
- Inform the parent/guardian of any child with a confirmed BLL of 5 mcg/dL or greater that they are eligible for nurse case management services provided by NH DPHS' Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (HHLPPP) at no cost, and they will be contacted by the HHLPPP to be connected with additional resources.
- All healthcare providers and organizations who conduct point-of-care BLL testing are also required ([NH RSA 130-A:3-a](#)) to provide the parent/guardian of any child with a detectable BLL with this revised NH [Lead and Children Fact Sheet](#); the fact sheet is also available in additional languages at this [DPHS website](#).
- For any questions about BLL testing and reporting, or about resources offered by NH DPHS, please contact the HHLPPP at 603-271-4718.

### Background:

There is no safe BLL, and lead exposure can affect a child's physical growth and development, cause damage to the brain and nervous system, and lead to learning disabilities and behavior problems. In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACCLPP) [recommended](#) a population blood lead level reference value of 5 mcg/dL to identify children at risk for lead exposure in order to provide lead education, environmental investigation, and additional medical monitoring.

In February 2018, NH [RSA 130-A](#) (Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention and Control) was changed to require universal BLL testing of all one and two year old children, create processes to inform and educate families about the risk of lead exposure, and make resources available to address potential exposures.

Effective July 1, 2021, NH DPHS will offer nurse case management and an environmental investigation to families of children with a [confirmed](#) venous BLL of 5 mcg/dL or higher.

As required by NH law NH RSA 130-A, a venous blood lead level is confirmed by either two separate venous tests or the health care provider may designate the blood lead level as elevated with the first venous test by faxing a completed [Declaration Form](#) to the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (HHLPPP) at 603-271-3991.

Parents/guardians of children with a BLL of between 3 mcg/dL and 4.9 mcg/dL will also receive a notification letter from the NH DPHS informing them about lead exposure risks, the importance of follow-up BLL testing, and available resources for parents/guardians, in accordance with NH [RSA 130-A:6-b](#).

**Additional Resources:**

NH DHHS Childhood Lead Screening and Management Resources:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/medical-providers.htm>

For more information about using point-of-care LeadCare® II analyzers, please review this guide: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/documents/poc-leadcare2-guide.pdf>.

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to [DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov)

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From: Benjamin Chan, MD, MPH – State Epidemiologist  
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services