

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FOLLOW-UP SCHEDULE FOR DIAGNOSTIC / CONFIRMED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS
FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX**

Blood Lead Level	Response
<p align="center">Clinical and environmental follow-up is based on the <i>truncated</i> test result. Example: Actual result= 4.79; Actions based on truncated value= 4</p>	
<p>All diagnostic (i.e., confirmation) tests should be performed <u>as soon as possible</u> within specified time periods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diagnostic tests should be venous; however, capillary tests are accepted if a venous cannot be obtained. ➤ Follow-up testing can be capillary. ➤ CDC protocol for capillary sampling of blood lead should be followed. (See Resources) ➤ If diagnostic test result falls into a lower category - follow response for the lower risk category. ➤ If diagnostic <u>or</u> follow-up test result falls into a higher category – conduct <u>another</u> diagnostic test to confirm the higher risk category. Follow guidelines for higher risk category, after confirmation. ➤ Point of care (POC) lead analyzers (i.e., LeadCare) should NOT be used for diagnostic tests. ➤ Diagnostic tests <u>must be sent to an outside reference laboratory.</u> 	
<p align="center"><5 µg/dL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parents and document notification • Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retest at age 2, earlier if risk of exposure increases
<p align="center">5-9 µg/dL (Perform diagnostic test within 3 months)</p>	<p>Take same actions as above -AND- if diagnostic test result is 5-9 µg/dL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clinical management • Conduct nutritional assessment and refer child to the WIC Program • Take environmental history to identify lead sources (DHHS 3651 Form) • Refer to local health department to offer an environmental investigation • Test other children under the age of six in same household <p>Follow-up testing: Every 3 months until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL (based on the <i>truncated</i> test result)</p>
<p align="center">10-44 µg/dL (Perform diagnostic test within 1 month at 10-19 µg/dL; within 1 week at 20-44 µg/dL)</p>	<p>Take same actions as above -AND- if diagnostic test result is 10-44 µg/dL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to local health department for <u>required</u> environmental investigation and remediation enforcement if hazards are identified • Refer child to CDSA* Early Intervention or CC4C** as appropriate • Refer to Social Services as needed for housing or additional assistance <p>Follow-up testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-24 µg/dL: every 1-3 months until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL • 25-44 µg/dL: every 2 weeks to 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL (based on the <i>truncated</i> test result)
<p align="center">45-69 µg/dL (Perform diagnostic test within 48 hours at 45-59 µg/dL; 24 hours at 60-69 µg/dL)</p>	<p>Take same actions as above -AND- if diagnostic test result is 45-69 µg/dL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Carolinas Poison Center (1-800-222-1222) for advice on chelation and/or hospitalization • Consider an abdominal x-ray check for an ingested object • Alert NC CLPPP by calling 919-707-5950 <p>Follow-up testing: 45-69 µg/dL: every 2 weeks to 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL (based on the <i>truncated</i> test result)</p>
<p align="center">≥70 µg/dL (Perform emergency diagnostic test immediately)</p>	<p>Take same actions as above -AND- if diagnostic test result is ≥70 µg/dL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitalize child and begin medical treatment <u>immediately</u> <p>Follow-up testing: Same as 45-69 µg/dL category</p>

*Children’s Developmental Service Agency

**Care Coordination for Children

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Resources:

- [DHHS 3651 Form](#)
- [Agencies for Referrals by County](#)
- [Educational Materials for Families](#)
- [CDC Protocol for Capillary Sampling of Blood Lead](#)
- [CDC Protocol for Later Follow-up Testing after Blood Lead Level \(BLL\) Declining](#)

