

# Frequently Asked Questions: CDPH Provider Lead Investigation Referral & Notification of Blood Lead Level Form



- 1. What is the purpose of the form?** The purpose of the form is (1) for health care providers to request a **home environmental lead inspection** for pregnant women and or child up to age sixteen years with an confirmed (venous) lead level of 5 µg/dL (five micrograms per deciliter of whole blood) or greater and who meet **specific criteria** described on the form and (2) To notify the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) of all venous or capillary blood lead level of 45µg/dL or greater for a pregnant woman or child up to sixteen years of age who reside within the boundaries of the City of Chicago.
- 2. If the laboratory I use is required to report all lead tests to the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH), why should I make a referral to CDPH?** CDPH receives the results of lead test (Capillary & Venous) for Chicago residents through IDPH’s HHL PSS (Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System). Through electronic notification from HHL PSS, CDPH is able to generate referrals for nurse case management and lead home investigation & inspection for residents of the City of Chicago, who are aged ≤ 16 years or is a pregnant women with a venous lead level ≥ 5 µg/dL. **Note:** Because CDPH receives electronic notification of lead test results (venous & capillary) for all citizens of Chicago, it is important that health care providers adhere to the criteria indicated on the form. Please check the appropriate services requested.
- 3. What are the blood lead testing and result reporting requirements for Illinois?**  
According to the Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Act (ILPPA) (410 ILCS 45/7) all capillary and venous blood test results (i.e. performed in a healthcare providers office, performed at an outreach event, or sent to an external laboratory to be analyzed) shall be reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health’s (IDPH) Lead Program within the following timeframe. Failure to report lead test results could result in fines under the ILPPA.

### IDPH Mandate Timelines for Reporting Venous & Capillary Lead Test Results

Capillary or Venous Lead Test results	Timeline
Level greater than 35µg/dL	24 hours
Level 5-35µg/dL	48 hours
Level less than 5µg/dL	30 days

- 4. Why is it important the health care provider to verify client information when completing the referral form?**

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Incorrect contact information i.e. name of child, address (apartment #, floor, suite etc.) date of birth of child, parents name and telephone can cause a delay in services requested.

5. **What does a home environmental lead inspection consist of?** The in-home Lead inspection is an onsite investigation to determine the existence, nature, severity and location of lead hazards. CDPH Lead inspectors are licensed by IDPH as Lead Risk Assessors to conduct lead risk assessments; lead inspection, and lead hazard screens to sample for the presence of lead in paint, dust, soil, and water (77 ILAC/845.20). An exit interview is held with the property owner or designee and occupant to discuss the areas where lead hazards were identified. Interim control measures are discussed with the property owner and occupant. Doing the exit interview, the owner of the property or designee is given two pamphlets; “The Lead- Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right” and Lead Safe Renovation, Repair and Painting”. Both pamphlets are published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
6. **What is a preventive lead inspection?** The CDPH Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program is focused on making high-risk housing lead safe through targeted primary interventions such as conducting home lead inspections in the most vulnerable community areas, where pregnant women and children are most likely to be exposed to lead hazards. Preventive home inspections are requested with the knowledge and permission from the pregnant woman and or parent or guardian.
7. **Will the lead inspector inquire about other possible and potential sources lead? Yes.** Lead inspectors are required to interview the owner of the property or occupant about potential lead hazards such as; improperly glazed pottery, ethnic or folk medicines, hobbies & occupation, other dwellings, international travel, & recent renovations (77 IL AC:845:85;2A).
8. **Will the owner of the property and occupant receive a copy of the investigation report? Yes.** The property owner and occupant will be provided with an investigation report stating either that a “lead hazard does exist or that a lead hazard does not exist”. A copy of the lead investigation report is mailed to the owner and occupant within 30 days of the inspection. Enclosed with this report is the City of Chicago’s informational brochure on lead poisoning prevention and financial assistance programs that may be available to eliminate lead hazards. The owner of the property is required by State law to mitigate the lead hazard(s) in the manner and time-frame in accordance with this law (77 ILAC: 845/85; 5 A, B & C).
9. **Why is it important for health care providers to notify the CDPH if they receive a lead test result of  $\geq 45 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  (capillary or venous) for a child or pregnant woman?**

A venous lead level  $\geq 45 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  most often indicates a need for medical treatment. The higher the blood lead level the more urgent the need for medical follow-up and treatment. Blood from a capillary test may show a false elevated result due to lead on the skin or in the environment (contamination). Venous blood testing will help to confirm if lead is in the blood stream. According the Lead Poisoning Prevention Code (77 ILAC/ 845.55; a) “Children who have elevated capillary results of  $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or greater shall be confirmed by a venous sample.

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### IDPH Timeline for Venous Confirmatory Following a Capillary Lead Test results

Capillary Blood Lead Level $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	Confirm with a Venous Blood Test Within
5-24	1 Month
25-45	2 days
$\geq 46$	1 day

10. **What method does CDPH use to prioritize lead inspection request?** Scheduling of inspections and case management services are based on the child’s age, if the person is pregnant, and the level of lead in blood test results. Priority is given to pregnant persons and very young children (3 years & younger) with an elevated blood lead level.
  
11. **What activities or interventions are provided by CDPH Lead Case Management?** CDPH Case management activities are provided by or monitored by CDPH Public Health Nurses (Registered Nurses). The public health nurse is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the services required to reduce venous BLL’s below 5ug/dL in children up to age 16 and pregnant women residing within the city of Chicago. These activities include tracing the case, home visiting to interview, educate, and counsel the pregnant person, parent or guardian of the case regarding lead poisoning, nutrition, developmental screening, information on hazard reduction, referral for early intervention services, referral to primary care provider for medical treatment and follow-up testing if indicated, and to initiate referrals for environmental investigation .
  
12. **How can pregnant people or individuals with a child or children over age 6 request a home lead inspection with no blood lead test required?**  
 A home lead inspection under these circumstances is processed by calling the City of Chicago’s **311** non-emergency telephone line . A “Service Request” will then be forwarded to the CDPH Lead Poisoning Prevention & Healthy Home’s Program Inspection & Enforcement division. General questions about lead, lead prevention & CDPH lead inspection & case management services can be answered by calling our Hotline at (312) 747-LEAD (747-5323).

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