



For more information on childhood lead poisoning prevention:

Contact:

Tennessee Department of Health at:
615-532-8462
tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/tn-clpp.html

Or visit your local health department



A guide to

understanding your Child's Lead Screening

Baby's first birthday is approaching...

In addition to the candle and cake, your baby's first birthday also brings his or her one-year well child checkup. During this visit, certain tests may be ordered to identify or prevent potential problems.

One of the simple, routine tests you can expect is known as lead screening. Parents should talk to their child's provider about lead testing if it has not been offered.

Our Partners:



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What is the purpose of this test?

Lead poisoning is an environmental hazard for thousands of children. In the United States today, as many as 450,000 babies and children are exposed to lead, usually without anyone's knowledge.

Children can become lead poisoned without showing any outward signs of illness. Lead poisoning, however, can cause a variety of health problems, the most devastating being damage to a child's developing brain.

Testing at an early age assures that lead poisoning is discovered before a child's critical period of brain development (ongoing from birth through age six) has ended.

What happens during lead screening?

- Child's finger cleansed with alcohol wipe
- Finger pricked; blood droplets captured
- Lead Care II device analyzes blood for any lead content
- Brief wait for results
- Device reveals child's blood lead level.

The lowest level that registers is 3.3. While there is NO safe level of lead in blood, blood lead levels of 3.5 or greater will trigger the need for a second test (a venous blood sample).

Where can lead be found?

Lead can be found in:

- paint
- soil
- mini blinds
- water
- imported pottery
- toys
- spices
- cosmetics

How are children exposed to lead?

Until the late 1970s, most homes contained lead-based paint. Even when that paint is covered over with non-lead paint, ordinary wear and tear breaks down paint into very fine, powdery dust. Children can unknowingly breathe in or swallow that dust, resulting in lead poisoning.



Protect your family today!

The Tennessee Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides case management, local outreach and education, public health lead investigations (requires program approval), and lead data.

Call 615-532-8462

Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm CST
tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/tn-clpp.html