

# Tennessee Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Screening Guidelines

The Tennessee Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) screening, testing and follow-up guidelines are based on the latest recommendations of the Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). More information is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/php/lead-advisory-committee/lepac-meetings.html#:~:text=The%20Lead%20Exposure%20and%20Prevention,preventing%20lead%20exposure%20in%20communities>

## Who Should Be Screened?

A lead risk assessment should be performed according to Bright Futures guidelines for children starting at 6 months old.

[https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity\\_schedule.pdf?\\_ga=2.91740122.1112264329.1665091634-1999710129.1663593103](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf?_ga=2.91740122.1112264329.1665091634-1999710129.1663593103)

## Who Should Be Tested?

1. Children at 12 and 24 months old\*
2. Children 36-72 months old without a documented blood lead level\*
3. Children whose parent/guardian requests a blood lead level
4. Children whose parent/guardian answers “yes” or “don’t know” to any questions on the risk assessment questionnaire used at well-child checks between 6-72 months of age or when child’s risk status changes

\*Required for **all** TennCare recipients.

## Testing Guidelines

1. Blood lead test may be done as a capillary finger stick.
2. If the blood lead level (BLL) is 3.5 µg/dL or greater, the level must be confirmed by a venous BLL.

### If the Capillary Blood Lead Level is $\geq 3.5 \text{ }\mu\text{g/dL}$ follow the Recommended Schedule for a Confirmatory Venous Sample

Screening test result (µg/dL)	Time to confirmation testing
3.5-9	0-3 months
10-44	1 week - 1 month*
45-59	48 hours
60-69	24 hours
$\geq 70$	Urgently as emergency test

\*The higher the BLL on the screening test, the more urgent the need for confirmatory testing.

### If the Confirmatory Venous Sample is $\geq 3.5 \text{ }\mu\text{g/dL}$ , follow the Recommended Schedule for Follow-Up Testing <sup>a</sup>

Venous Blood Lead Level (µg/dL)	Early Follow-Up (first 2-4 tests after identification)	Late Follow-Up (after BLL begins to decline)
3.5-9	3 months <sup>a</sup>	6-9 months
10-19	1-3 months <sup>a</sup>	3-6 months
20-24	1-3 months <sup>a</sup>	1-3 months
25-44	2 weeks-1 month	1 month
$\geq 45$	As soon as possible	As soon as possible

<sup>a</sup> Seasonal variation of BLLs exists and may be more apparent in colder climate areas. Greater exposure in the summer months may necessitate more frequent follow-ups.

Summary of Recommended Actions for Children Based on Blood Lead Level Value	
Value	Recommendations
< 3.5 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report results to TN CLPPP.</li> <li>Provide lead education<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>Continue screening per TN CLPPP screening guidelines.</li> <li>Monitor development during well child visits.</li> </ul>
3.5 - 19 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report results to TN CLPPP.</li> <li>Perform a complete history and physical exam, assessing the child for signs and symptoms related to lead exposure.</li> <li>Obtain environmental exposure history to identify potential sources.</li> <li>Follow-up blood lead monitoring (see guidelines).</li> <li>Ensure the child does not have iron deficiency. Follow American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)<sup>2</sup> testing and treatment guidelines.</li> <li>Provide nutritional education with focus on calcium and iron intake. Refer to WIC<sup>3</sup> as applicable.</li> <li>Monitor the child's development per AAP guidelines.</li> <li>Environmental investigation (Venous BLLs <math>\geq</math> 15 or persistently elevated levels).</li> <li>Abdominal X-ray (if particulate lead ingestion is suspected) with bowel decontamination if applicable.</li> <li>Refer to TEIS<sup>4</sup> as applicable.</li> </ul>
20 - 44 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report results to TN CLPPP.</li> <li>Follow the recommendations for BLL 3.5-19 with addition of the following:</li> <li>Contact the TN Poison Center (800-222-1222) for guidance regarding management, including oral chelation therapy.</li> </ul>
45 - 69 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the recommendations for BLL 20-44, with addition of the following:</li> <li>Perform a complete history and physical exam, including a detailed neurological exam.</li> <li>Contact the TN Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) for guidance regarding management, including oral chelation therapy.</li> <li><b>Consider hospitalization if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient's home is not lead-safe.</li> <li>Source of lead exposure has not been identified.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
$\geq$ 70 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the recommendations for BLL 20-44, with addition of the following: Hospitalize and commence chelation therapy (following confirmatory venous blood lead test) in conjunction with consultation from a medical toxicologist or a pediatric health specialty unit.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/hcp/clinical-guidance/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/126/5/1040/65343/Diagnosis-and-Prevention-of-Iron-Deficiency-and?autologincheck=redirected&nfToken=00000000-0000-0000-000000000000>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/wic.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.tn.gov/disability-and-aging/disability-aging-programs/teis.html>

**The following actions are NOT recommended at any blood lead level:**

- Searching for gingival lead lines
- Testing of hair, teeth, or fingernails for lead
- Testing of neurophysiologic function
- Radiographic imaging of long bones
- Evaluation of renal function
- X-ray fluorescence of long bones (except during chelation with EDTA)

**Additional Contact Information**

**Tennessee Department of Health:**

Childhood Lead Poisoning Program: <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/tn-clpp.html> or Call (615) 532-8515

Healthy Homes: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/environmental/healthy-homes/hh/lead.html>

**Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation:** <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/solid-waste/toxic-substances/lead-hazard-program.html> or Call (615) 532-LEAD or the in-state-only hotline at 1-888-771-LEAD

**Lead-based inspectors, Risk Assessors:** [Lead - Renovation, Repair and Painting \(RRP\)](https://www.tn.gov/lead-renovation-repair-and-painting-rp.html)

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