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Clark County Combined Health District- Health Alert
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention: Testing Requirements
October 18, 2022

Summary:

- Ohio law requires physicians screen children for lead that live in Ohio Department of Health (ODH) identified “high-risk” zip code areas at age one and two, or up to 6 years of age if no previous test was completed. This lead testing requirement also applies to children on Medicaid and children with other risk factors.
- There are nine identified high-risk zip codes in Clark County: 45502, 45503, 45504, 45505, 45506, 45324, 45387, 43078, and 43140. **ALL** of Springfield city’s zip codes are deemed high-risk.
- In October 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) decreased the blood lead reference value (BLRV) from 5 µg/dL (micrograms per deciliter of blood) to 3.5 µg/dL. The BLRV represent the top 2.5 percent of U.S. children with the highest lead levels. The Ohio Department of Health plans to lower Ohio’s BLRV to 3.5 µg/dL at a future date. CCCHD will distribute a health alert when ODH lowers Ohio’s BLRV to 3.5 µg/dL.

Background: Lead based paint is the primary source of lead poisoning. Chips of lead based paint can be ingested or ground into dust, which can be eaten or breathed in. There are many additional lead exposure sources including, water, soil, some imported products (i.e., pottery, candy, and make-up), jewelry, and old toys and furniture. Adults exposed to lead in their occupation or hobbies can bring lead into the home on their shoes or clothing. For more information about lead and sources of lead exposure, please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program | CDC](#) webpage.

Research shows there is no safe blood lead level. Even low levels of lead in blood can cause developmental delays, difficulty learning and lower IQ scores, behavioral issues, and neurological damage. The effects of lead poisoning can be permanent and disabling. Most research has focused on how lead is associated with impaired intelligence; however, recent research highlights how lead is tied to conduct disorders, delinquency, and increased high school dropout rates.

Recommendations for Physicians:

- Ohio law requires all healthcare providers to administer blood lead tests to children at ages one and two, or up to age 6 if no previous test has been completed based on the following criteria: the child is on Medicaid, lives in a high-risk ZIP code, or has certain other risk factors.
- All capillary test results > 5 µg/dL must be confirmed by a venous draw.
- If a positive test result is obtained, the Medical Management Recommendations chart must be followed for testing intervals and guidelines. The chart is available at the [Medical Management Recommendations | Ohio Department of Health](#) webpage.
- All blood lead results are required by law to be reported to the ODH by the analyzing laboratory.

Request for Notification of Elevated Blood Lead Level Results: Fax all elevated blood lead level test results for Clark County children between the ages of one and 6 to CCCHD at 937-390-5626 as soon as possible. CCCHD’s lead case management staff will contact the family to start the process of lead case management services in a timely manner.

Resources:

Ohio Department of Health: <https://odh.ohio.gov/childhood-lead-poisoning/for-healthcare-providers>

Ohio Department of Health: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/childhood-lead-poisoning/regulations>

Ohio Department of Health State Medical Board: Who should be tested for lead and when?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qby_9Wh9Vcl



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm>

If you are receiving this health alert via fax, please visit the CCCHD website (http://ccchd.com/?page_id=870) or follow the QR code below to view a digital copy with clickable links. If you wish to receive health alerts electronically in the future, please contact asauter@ccchd.com.

Alert Details

Date: 10/18/2022

Time Sensitivity: Immediate

To: Medical offices, Urgent Cares, Clinics, Hospitals, Laboratories and ICPs

Target Audience: Physicians, PA, NP, Nurses, Medical Staff, ICP staff, and Laboratorians

Relevance to Public Health: High Concern

