

**Illinois Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire**

**ALL CHILDREN 6 MONTHS THROUGH 6 YEARS MUST BE ASSESSED FOR LEAD POISONING.
(410 ILCS 45/6.2)**

A documented result of a blood lead test or a properly filled out Childhood Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire must be attached to a Certificate of Child Health Examination form for purposes of admission to an Illinois Department of Children and Family Services or state regulated child-care facility, including those operated by a school district.

Child's Name _____ Today's Date _____

Child's Age _____ Child's Birthdate _____ Child's ZIP Code _____

Respond to the following questions by circling the appropriate answer.	R E S P O N S E
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|---|-------------------|
| 1. Is this child eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid, Head Start, All Kids or WIC? | Yes No Don't Know |
| 2. Does this child have a sibling with a blood lead level of 10 mcg/dL or higher? | Yes No Don't Know |
| 3. Does this child live in or regularly visit a home that was built before 1978? | Yes No Don't Know |
| 4. In the past one year, has this child been exposed to repairs, repainting, or renovation of a home built before 1978? | Yes No Don't Know |
| 5. Is this child a refugee or an adoptee from any foreign country? | Yes No Don't Know |
| 6. Has this child ever been to Mexico, Central or South America, Asian countries (i.e., China or India), or any country where exposure to lead from certain items could have occurred (for example, cosmetics, home remedies, folk medicines or glazed pottery)? | Yes No Don't Know |
| 7. Does this child live with someone who has a job or a hobby that may involve lead (for example, jewelry making, building renovation or repair, bridge construction, plumbing, furniture refinishing, or work with automobile batteries or radiators, lead solder, leaded glass, lead shots, bullets or lead fishing sinkers)? | Yes No Don't Know |
| 8. At any time, has this child lived near a factory where lead is used (for example, a lead smelter or a paint factory)? | Yes No Don't Know |

If the child has two (2) consecutive blood lead test results that are each less than 10 mcg/dL (with one test at age 3 or older) and there has been no change in the child's living conditions, a blood lead test is not needed at this time.

Test 1: Blood Lead Result _____ mcg/dL Date _____ Test 2: Blood Lead Result _____ mcg/dL Date _____

Please discuss any questions or concerns with your child's health care provider. For more information, call:

**Illinois Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
800-545-2200 or 217-782-0403
TTY (hearing impaired use only) 800-547-0466**

Signature of Doctor/Nurse

Date

Childhood Lead Poisoning

1. What is lead?

Lead is a naturally-occurring metal that is unsafe at any level in our bodies.

2. What is lead poisoning?

Lead poisoning is the presence of too much lead in the body.

3. What are the symptoms of lead poisoning?

Children with lead poisoning usually have no obvious signs or abnormal symptoms.

4. How does lead poisoning affect children?

Lead decreases children's ability to learn and may lead to behavior problems.

5. Who gets lead poisoning?

People of any age, race or economic level, but children are at the greatest risk because of oral behaviors and hand contamination.

6. What are sources of present lead exposure?

- Dust and paint chips from deteriorating lead-based paint in homes built before 1978
- Soil contaminated with lead
- Imported glazed pottery or other products made outside the United States that contain lead
- Food, medicines or folk remedies from foreign countries that contain lead
- Family members who have occupations or hobbies involving lead
- Drinking water from plumbing containing lead

7. How can I tell if my child has lead poisoning?

The only way to diagnose lead poisoning is with a blood test. The blood sample is sent to a laboratory to find out how much lead it contains.

8. When should I have my child assessed or tested?

- A child should be **assessed** for lead exposure at every well child visit between 6 months and 6 years
- Blood lead **tests** are recommended at 12, 24 and 36 months of age
- When a high risk of lead exposure exists
- All children eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid, Head Start, All Kids or WIC are required to have blood lead testing

To assess your child's possible exposure to lead, please answer the questions on the reverse side of this page and discuss any questions or concerns regarding lead poisoning with your child's health care provider.

Illinois Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Risk Assessment Guidelines

- All Illinois children 6 months through 6 years of age should be assessed for lead poisoning as directed by the Illinois Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act (410 ILCS 45).
- All Medicaid-eligible children should receive a blood lead test at 12 months and at 24 months of age. If a child 36 through 72 months of age has not been previously tested, a blood lead test should be performed. This is mandated by the United States government (Health Care Financing Administration).
- In 1997, all Illinois ZIP codes were classified as either high risk or low risk. At that time, 1990 census data (percentage of homes built before 1950, percentage of homes built between 1950 and 1959 and percentage of low-income families in each ZIP code) were used to determine risk classification. The risk of classification of ZIP codes has not changed.
- The revised risk questions focus on -
 1. age of home;
 2. home, school, or day-care condition and/or remodeling;
 3. child eligibility or enrollment in programs designed for low-income families;
 4. jobs and hobbies likely to involve lead; and
 5. identification of areas contaminated by industry.
- Health care providers should discuss the risk factors with the parent or guardian to determine whether the child has been or is being exposed to lead.
- If the parent or guardian answered “yes” or “don’t know” to any of the assessment questions, the child may have been exposed to lead and needs a blood lead test.
- There are other potentially significant sources of lead and behavior patterns that increase potential exposure and are not (or not in detail) included in the risk assessment questions:
 1. leaded crystal or ceramic dishes with glazes or paints that contain lead
 2. water exposed to lead pipes or lead solder
 3. some home remedies, folk medicines and imported make-up that contains lead (see *Guidelines for the Detection and Management of Lead Poisoning for Physicians and Health Care Providers*)
 4. vinyl mini-blinds manufactured outside of the U.S. before 1996
 5. jobs and hobbies that may involve lead (see *Guidelines for the Detection and Management of Lead Poisoning for Physicians and Health Care Providers*)
 6. oral behaviors (e.g., frequent placing of thumbs, fingers, or objects in mouth)