

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner


Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

Environmental Health Section

### EHS Circular Letter #2019-19

DATE: August 1, 2019

TO: Hospitals and Clinics  
Pediatricians  
Community Health Centers

FROM: Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner 

RE: Connecticut's Childhood Lead Screening Regulations

Childhood lead poisoning continues to be a significant health concern. Each year, over 1,600 children in Connecticut are found to have lead levels at or above 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , the reference level at which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states public health actions should be taken.

There is no safe level of lead; therefore, testing children is crucial in the fight against lead poisoning.

**Connecticut General Statute 19a-111g requires pediatric providers to conduct blood lead tests at least twice by three years of age.** Overall, pediatric providers in Connecticut have succeeded in testing children at least once. Performing the second test as required by law, however, needs notable improvement. Surveillance data show that only 57% of Connecticut children were tested twice before the age of three. Children between one and three years of age exhibit more hand to mouth activity and are more mobile making them more susceptible to exposure to dust which may contain high levels of lead. This makes the second test for lead poisoning as imperative as the first. Early identification of children with lead exposures gives medical providers and local health departments the opportunity to work with the families to reduce exposures, lower blood lead levels and potentially prevent permanent adverse health effects.

We encourage pediatric providers to review patients' charts to ensure each child under their care has received two blood lead tests by three years of age.

For questions related to this matter, please contact the Department of Public Health's Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes Program at (860) 509-7299.

cc: Brian Toal, Environmental Health Section, DPH



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