

Blood Lead Testing

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that all children enrolled in Medicaid receive blood lead level (BLL) testing at ages 12 months and 24 months. Also, Medicaid-enrolled children older than 24 months but younger than 72 months without a blood test on record must receive one. Completion of a lead risk assessment questionnaire does not satisfy this requirement (CMS, 2016). In addition, NYS law mandates that all children receive BLL tests twice prior to turning 3 years old, once around age one and again around age two (NYS, 2009).

The following recommendations are based, on the CDC and NYSDOH guidelines:

Recommended Schedule for Obtaining a Confirmatory Venous Sample

Blood Lead Level (µg/dL)	Time to Confirmation Testing
≥5-9	1-3 months
10-44	1 week-1 month*
45-59	48 hours
60-69	24 hours
≥70	Urgently as emergency test

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

Schedule for Follow-Up Blood Lead Testing^a

Venous Blood lead Levels (µg/dL)	Early follow up testing (2-4 tests after identification)	Later follow up testing after BLL declining
≥5-9	3 months*	6-9 months
10-19	1-3 months*	3-6 months
20-24	1-3 months*	1-3 months
25-44	2 weeks-1 month	1-months
≥45	As soon as possible	As soon as possible

^aSeasonal variation of BLLs exists and may be more apparent in colder climates. Greater lead exposure in the summer months may necessitate more frequent follow ups.

*Some case managers or healthcare providers may choose to repeat blood lead tests on all new patients within a month to ensure that their BLL level is not rising more quickly than anticipated