



Dutchess County Department of Health Public Health Advisory*

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Changes to New York State Public Health Law and Regulations for Blood Lead Level testing, reporting and follow-up

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Please Distribute to : Healthcare Providers, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine staff

- The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) announced changes to the Public Health Law and to the Administrative Rules and Regulations regarding childhood lead poisoning, testing, screening, reporting and follow-up.
- The changes clarify the requirements for lead screening include blood lead level (BLL) testing.
- Amendments require Physician Office Laboratories (POLs) and Limited Service Laboratories that conduct BLL testing to report all results to NYSDOH.
- Comprehensive follow up services are now required for all children with BLLs \geq 15ug/DL.
- A complete copy of the amended law and regulations for BLL is available at NYSDOH website: www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/lead

In order to try and eliminate childhood lead poisoning, New York State updated its laws and regulations to reflect current lead testing technology and practice standards. These changes also clarify and expand requirements for follow-up of children with lead poisoning and to support the integration of statewide data systems to improve childhood lead testing.

A summary of the changes correspond to the following:

Childhood lead testing and reporting

- Clarify that statewide requirements for lead screening include blood lead testing.
- Authorize POLs and Limited Service Laboratory Registrants to conduct blood lead testing, using devices of complexity appropriate for their level of certification.
- Require POLs and Limited Service Laboratory Registrants that conduct blood lead testing to report all results to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).
- Require that health care providers confirm capillary blood lead test results \geq 10 micrograms per deciliter (μ g/dL) using venous blood samples.
- Eliminate use of the term "certificate of lead screening".
- Authorize the exchange of information between the statewide childhood lead registry (LeadWeb) and the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS).

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***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Dutchess County Department of Health

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Follow-up services for children with elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs)

- Require health care providers to provide comprehensive follow-up services for all children with blood lead levels (BLLs) ≥ 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.
- Require Local Health Departments to provide environmental management for all children with BLLs ≥ 15 mcg/dL .
- Clarify that follow-up services are required for all children with EBLLs up to age eighteen years.
- Expand the requirements for immediate notification of critically elevated BLLs to include all children less than eighteen years of age.

For more information on lead you can visit our website at www.dutchessny.gov or for a complete copy of the amended law and regulations for BLL go to the NYSDOH website: www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/lead.

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