



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner

October 27, 2022

IDOH Guidance for Implementation of Lead Screening Requirements from House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1313

Dear Partners:

On March 10, 2022, Governor Holcomb signed into law a bill requiring healthcare providers to confirm that children under 7 have been tested for lead, and if not, to offer this testing to the parent or guardian of that child. The bill is slated to take effect January 1, 2023.

Within the law, there are references to a “blood lead screening test”, “screening children”, and “lead poisoning screening”. Each of these references is intended to refer to either a capillary or venous blood lead test as defined in 410 IAC 29-1-3 and 410 IAC 29-1-25.

The law directs the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to “establish guidance and standards for health care providers” as it relates to required screening and testing. Below is that guidance:

To ensure uniformity between HEA 1313 and the Medicaid Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostics, and Treatment (EPDST) guidelines, IDOH is requiring all providers to follow the steps below:

- 1. Children should receive a blood lead test between the ages of nine (9) and fifteen (15) months, or as close as reasonably possible to the patient’s appointment.**
- 2. Children should have another blood lead test between the ages of twenty-one (21) and twenty-seven (27) months, or as close as reasonably possible to the patient’s appointment.**
- 3. Any child between twenty-eight (28) and seventy-two (72) months that does not have a record of any prior blood lead test must have a blood lead test performed as soon as possible.**

If a provider can verify, via the Children’s Health and Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP), or the records from another provider, that blood lead testing has occurred at the required interval(s), they are not obligated to repeat the procedure.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.



If a parent or guardian refuses to allow their child to be tested, providers are encouraged to document the refusal in writing and have the parent or guardian sign an attestation of refusal. A sample refusal attestation accompanies this guidance. Providers are expected to keep a copy of the refusal, either digital or hard copy, with the patient record until the child reaches age 7. Providers are only required to keep a single refusal on file if a parent or guardian indicates they will not allow initial or follow-up testing.

All blood lead testing is required (per IC-41-39.4-3) to be reported to IDOH within one (1) week of receiving the result. Both providers and laboratories are obligated to report any result received or analyzed.

If you would like education around ways to conduct blood lead testing in-office, or would like IDOH support in obtaining capillary testing supplies or lab support, please reach out to our Lead and Healthy Homes Division at 317-233-1250.