

Monday, October 23, 2023

Dear Pediatric Providers:

In honor of National Lead Poisoning Prevention week, Snohomish County Health Department is taking this opportunity to emphasize childhood blood lead testing as a prevention strategy. Federal rules require all children enrolled in Medicaid, regardless of whether coverage is funded through title XIX or XXI, to receive blood lead screening tests at ages 12 months and 24 months. In addition, any child between 24 and 72 months with no record of a previous blood lead screening test must receive one.

Completing a risk assessment questionnaire does not meet the Medicaid requirement. The Medicaid requirement is met only when the two blood lead screening tests identified above (or a catch-up blood lead screening test) are conducted. For more information, please visit [Medicaid's lead screening information page](#).

While notable environmental improvements have been made to reduce exposure to lead, certain children remain at substantial risk for exposure. Those children disproportionately experience negative health consequences. The CDC projects that there are about half a million children between the ages of 1 and 5 years old in the United States who possess blood lead levels greater than 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ), which is the [threshold level at which CDC recommends public health actions are taken](#).

The Snohomish County Health Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program has developed an online toolkit for healthcare providers as a resource. We encourage you to review the information and use any materials there that you find helpful for yourself and your patients. You can find the toolkit at [www.snohd.org/lead](http://www.snohd.org/lead).

Thank you,



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