

Reporting Requirements for Facilities Performing Blood Lead Analyses

UPDATED 2023

Reporting Requirements

The [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act \(Minnesota Statutes, section 144.9502\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/144.9502) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/144.9502>) requires that facilities performing blood lead analyses must report all results to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The statute covers blood lead analyses performed at hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and other facilities on both capillary and venous specimens, and specifies epidemiologic information that must be reported, as well as time frames for reporting. Timely, accurate, and complete blood lead test reports facilitate medical interventions, environmental mitigations, and public health prevention activities.

Time Frame for Reporting Blood Lead Test Results to MDH

MN Statutes, section 144.9502 requires that venous blood lead results of at least 15 µg/dL are reported to MDH within two working days and that all other blood lead results are reported within one month. However, an elevated blood lead level is now defined in MN as 5 µg/dL or greater, and MDH guidelines recommend that public health interventions begin at 5 µg/dL. Therefore, to ensure that children, pregnant women, and workers get the timely care they need, **MDH requests that blood lead results be submitted within the following timeframe:**

- Within two (2) working days for all blood lead results of 5 µg/dL or greater, and
- Within one month for blood lead results less than 5 µg/dL (however, more prompt reporting is valuable for blood lead surveillance).

Methods for Reporting Blood Lead Test Results to MDH

According to MN Statutes, section 144.9502, blood lead data must be submitted to MDH in a manner as prescribed by the commissioner. For programs that perform more than 50 blood lead tests per year, MDH will no longer be accepting mailed or faxed results. At a minimum, results may be submitted using a spreadsheet, but MDH encourages facilities to submit data using electronic lab reporting with HL7 messages. More information about electronic lab reporting is available at [Blood Lead Electronic Data Submission](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/prof/datasub.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/prof/datasub.html>).

Programs that perform 50 or less blood lead tests per year are encouraged to submit blood lead test results electronically, but may submit results by mail or fax. Submitting results by mail or fax may also be used for temporary reporting for technological issues or while electronic reporting is being configured. The [MDH Blood Lead Report Form](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/docs/labreport.pdf) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/docs/labreport.pdf>) may be used for submitting results by mail or fax.

Required Reporting Data

The following fields are required for blood lead test result reporting by MN Statutes 144.9502:

- Patient Information
 - Full name, birth date, gender, race, ethnicity, address, and phone number
- Blood lead result in µg/dL
- Type of blood sample (venous or capillary)
- Requesting physician/facility name, address, phonenumber
- Date the sample was collected
- Date the sample was analyzed
- Laboratory/facility name, address, phone number

Optional Reporting Data:

Some fields that are not required, but are helpful for public health surveillance and patient follow-up, are included in the [MDH Blood Lead Report Form](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/docs/labreport.pdf>):

- If patient is a minor: the parent/guardian name(s)
- Secondary phone number
- Preferred language
- If patient is an adult: pregnancy/lactation status
- If patient is an adult: employer and job title
- Other patient comments

Blood Lead Testing and Follow-up

The [MDH Blood Lead Level Guidelines](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/prof/guidelines.html>) provide recommendations about blood lead screening, treatment, and case management. The Childhood Blood Lead Screening Guidelines for Minnesota and the Blood Lead Screening Guidelines for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women in Minnesota provide guidance about who should be tested for exposure to lead. The Childhood Blood Lead Clinical Treatment Guidelines for Minnesota offers information about follow-up blood lead testing and treatment after an Elevated Blood Lead Level.

MDH Contact Information

The [MDH Lead Surveillance](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/contactus.html#surveillance>)

Database Coordinator may be contacted for information on blood lead test result reporting and electronic reporting methods at Health.bloodleadresults@state.mn.us or (651) 201-4919.

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