



Quick Reference Guide: Blood Lead Screening Guidelines for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women in Minnesota

A risk questionnaire should be administered at the first prenatal visit for each pregnant woman, or if possible, during a pre-conception visit. Some health care providers who serve high-risk populations may choose to conduct blood lead testing on all pregnant women rather than administer the questionnaire. Overt signs of lead exposure are often not present. Therefore, a lack of clinical signs should not be used as a justification for not conducting a blood lead test.

Risk Screening Questionnaire for Pregnant Women			
Yes	No	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Do you or others in your household have an occupation that involves lead exposure?*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Do you or others in your household have hobbies or activities likely to cause lead exposure?*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. During the last 12 months, did you move to Minnesota from another country or from a major metropolitan area?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Do you use any traditional folk remedies?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Do you live in a house built before 1978 that is currently being renovated?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Do you use handmade pottery, imported pottery, or leaded crystal?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Do you eat or chew on any nonfood items, such as clay, crushed pottery, soil, or paint chips?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Do you eat venison or other game that was harvested with lead bullets?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Do you have any bullets in your body from past gunshot wounds?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Were you ever diagnosed with lead poisoning in the past?
Pregnant women who answer "Yes" or "Don't Know" to ANY of the above questions should have a blood lead test. Women should also be tested if they have any concerns about lead not addressed by this questionnaire.			

*Examples of Lead-Related Hobbies, Occupations, and Industries	
Artists, including painters, ceramics makers, jewelry makers and repairers, stained glass makers, and print makers (materials used may contain lead)	Paint and pigment manufacturers
Auto repairers (car parts may contain lead)	Plastic manufacturers (materials made may contain lead)
Battery manufacturers (batteries contain lead)	Plumbers and pipe fitters (pipes may contain lead)
Bridge reconstruction workers (old paint may contain lead)	Police officers and armed forces members (ammunition contains lead)
Construction workers (materials used may include lead)	Practitioners of Bleigiessen (German tradition of dropping molten lead into water to make predictions)
Demolition workers	Radiator repairers (radiators may contain lead)
Firing range workers and gunsmiths (ammunition contains lead)	Recyclers of metal, glass, electronics, and batteries (may contain lead)
Glass manufacturers (lead may be used in glass production)	Remodelers, repainters, and renovators of houses or buildings
Lead abatement workers	Restorers or refinishers of antique products/furniture
Lead figurine makers	Rubber product manufacturers (process contains lead)
Lead manufacturers, refiners, and smelters	Shipbuilders (materials used may include lead)
Lead miners	Solid waste incinerator operators (waste may contain lead)
Manufacturers of bullets, fishing sinkers, ceramics, industrial machinery, and electrical components (all may contain lead)	Splicers, manufacturers, and strippers of cable or wire
Painters (old paint and commercial paint may contain lead)	Steel welder (galvanized steel is coated in part with lead)

Blood Lead Level (BLL) Actions for Pregnant Women	
BLL (µg/dL)	Recommended Actions
<5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on sources of lead, how to prevent exposure, and nutrition information
5–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide counseling on possible sources of lead and information on how to reduce or eliminate exposure, including nutrition information • If result was from a capillary test, confirm with a venous test • Retest within 1 month. Obtain a maternal BLL or cord BLL at delivery • MDH will refer case to local public health agency for follow-up if pregnancy status is known to MDH • Assessing agencies (MDH or local public health) may conduct environmental assessments as resources allow if pregnancy status is known to MDH
10–44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide counseling on possible sources of lead and information on how to reduce or eliminate exposure, including nutrition information • If result was from a capillary test, confirm with a venous test • Retest within 1 month and then every 1–3 months. Obtain a maternal BLL or cord BLL at delivery • MDH will refer case to local public health agency for follow-up if pregnancy status is known to MDH • Assessing agency (MDH or local public health) will conduct environmental assessment if pregnancy status is known to MDH • Patients with results $\geq 40\mu\text{g/dL}$ are referred to OSHA by MDH
≥ 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide counseling on possible sources of lead and information on how to reduce or eliminate exposure, including nutrition information • If result was from a capillary test, confirm with a venous test • Retest within 24 hours. Consult with a lead poisoning expert to determine frequency of additional retesting. Obtain a maternal BLL or cord BLL at delivery • MDH will refer case to local public health agency for follow-up if pregnancy status is known to MDH • Assessing agency (MDH or local public health) will conduct environmental assessment if pregnancy status is known to MDH • Consider inpatient chelation in consultation with a lead poisoning expert • Patients are referred to OSHA by MDH

Additional information on blood lead testing and follow-up can be found in the complete Blood Lead Screening Guidelines for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women in Minnesota at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead



Minnesota
Department of Health

For more information about lead, contact:
Minnesota Department of Health
Environmental Health Division
Lead and Healthy Homes Program
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4620

If you require this document in another format,
call: 651-201-5000 • 1-800-657-3908