



## IS YOUR CHILD TESTED FOR LEAD PRIOR TO ENTERING KINDERGARTEN?

The State of Iowa requires all children entering kindergarten to have at least one blood lead test before the child is 6 years of age. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) manages this program. Lead poisoning is a serious problem in Iowa. The main source of childhood lead poisoning is lead-based paint, commonly found in homes built before 1978. Other sources of lead can also poison children.



Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities and affect your child's school performance. The only way to know if your child has lead poisoning is by a blood lead test. IDPH recommends children have blood lead tests at least yearly until they are 3 years old. Some children may require additional testing.

### **Why does my child need a blood lead test?**

Only children entering kindergarten who have not been tested for lead need a blood lead test this time. Any prior blood lead test meets the requirement of this law.

### **What if I don't remember if my child had a blood lead test?**

Call your child's medical provider and ask them to check if a blood lead test for your child is in the medical chart. If it is, request a copy of the blood lead test results. If it is not, schedule a visit for your child at their clinic. Your child's medical provider may have you go to a local laboratory for the blood lead test.

### **Who pays for the testing?**

When your child is tested, many insurance plans including Medicaid and Hawki will pay for the test. If you do not have a way to pay for this test, contact your local health department or IDPH at (800) 972-2026.

### **What do I do at the clinic or lab?**

Provide the same name and date of birth that you reported at your child's school. If you submit your child's information differently at the clinic or school, it is likely

that IDPH will not be able to determine that your child has had a blood lead test, and will ask for a test later on.

In addition, ask your clinic or lab if they report blood-lead test results to IDPH. If they are not familiar with the procedure, please provide them with the department's phone number: (800) 972-2026. This way, IDPH will not miss your child's test results, and will not request another.

**What do I do with my child's blood lead test results?**

IDPH does not require schools to collect blood-lead test results; however, some schools may ask you for it. Talk to your child's school and see if they need a copy of your child's blood-lead test result.

**Is my child's blood lead testing information secure?**

The Iowa Department of Public Health stores blood lead testing information on a secure database. Only authorized people have access to your child's information.

**What if I do not want my child have a blood lead test?**

Contact Rossany Brugger, Coordinator of the Mandatory Blood Lead Testing Program, at (515) 281-3225 or at her email address:

[Rossany.brugger@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:Rossany.brugger@idph.iowa.gov)

**Questions? Please contact:**

Rossany Brugger (515) 281-3225

Stuart Schmitz (515) 281-8707

[rossany.brugger@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:rossany.brugger@idph.iowa.gov)

[stuart@schmitz@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:stuart@schmitz@idph.iowa.gov)