

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

UNIVERSAL BLOOD LEAD LEVEL TESTING REGULATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the universal blood lead level testing regulation?

- The universal blood lead level testing regulation mandates that all children in Allegheny County be tested for lead exposure between 9 and 12 months of age and again at 24 months.

When does the universal blood lead level regulation go into effect?

- The regulation goes into effect on January 1, 2018.

Which children in Allegheny County must be tested?

- The regulation applies to all children in Allegheny County under the age of 6.

What should parents do?

- Parents should have their children's blood lead levels tested at the age of 9 to 12 months and again at 24 months.

Where can parents have their child's blood lead level tested?

- Parents should request the testing from their child's pediatric provider or family doctor.
- Beginning in 2018, ACHD facilities will be offering testing for un- or underinsured families. Please call 412-687-ACHD (2243) for more information.

What type of test will be used?

- The test will either be a venous test (blood drawn from the arm) or capillary test (blood drawn by a "finger stick").

Can children be tested at a later age?

- Yes. Children who are not tested before 24 months old should be tested before the age of 6 or entry into kindergarten, whichever is sooner.

Can parents opt out of having their child's blood lead level tested?

- Yes, parents who object in writing on religious grounds or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief can opt out of blood testing.



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