



A REGULATION REGARDING BLOOD LEAD LEVEL TESTING IN CHILDREN

WHEREAS, Section 5-301(b) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter authorizes the Board of Health to issue Department of Public Health regulations for the preservation and promotion of the health of the people of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Disease Control and Prevention Act of 1955, 1956, April 23, P.L. 1510, 35 P.S. § 52.1 *et seq.*, (the DCPA) and Section 6-201 of The Philadelphia Code authorize the Board of Health (the “Board”) to establish lists of reportable diseases and conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Board of Health has adopted *Regulations Governing the Control of Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases and Conditions*, which identifies lead poisoning and increased lead absorption as reportable conditions; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2019, the City Council of Philadelphia passed Bill No. 180937-A amending The Philadelphia Code, Chapter 6-200 entitled “Preventive Medicine” to establish requirements for the testing of blood lead levels in children; and

WHEREAS, Section 6-207(1) of The Philadelphia Code requires that a physician who, for any reason, is treating a child between the ages of 9 months and 21 months whose blood lead level has not previously been tested after 9 months of age shall test the blood lead level of the child at the first practical opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Section 6-207(2) of The Philadelphia Code requires that a physician treating a child between the ages of 21 months and 72 months whose blood lead level has not been tested once after the age of 21 months shall test the blood lead level of the child at the first practical opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Section 6-207(4) of The Philadelphia Code provides that the Board of Health shall establish by regulation rules regarding lead testing of children, including special testing for high risk groups of children, additional testing of lead-poisoned children and preferred methods of testing; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uses a blood lead level reference value of three point five (3.5) micrograms of lead per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) of blood to identify children with elevated blood lead levels; and

WHEREAS, there is no safe blood lead level in children and the best way to end childhood lead poisoning is to prevent, control, or eliminate lead exposures; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no therapeutic interventions that exists for low to moderate blood lead concentrations; and

WHEREAS, the lack of therapeutic interventions makes preventing exposure of children to lead and detecting elevated blood lead levels early of paramount importance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Health hereby adopts this Regulation Regarding Blood Lead Level Testing in Children.

Section 1. Definitions

Blood Lead Level. A measure of the amount of lead in the blood calculated in micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g/dL}$) of lead from a blood specimen.

Department. Department of Public Health.

Elevated Blood Lead Level. Blood lead concentration equal to or greater than three point five (3.5) micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g/dL}$) from a Venous Blood Test.

Venous Blood Test. Blood sample taken from a needle inserted into a vein.

Section 2. Method of Testing for Blood Lead Level

1. The Department recognizes that it is best practice for primary care providers to ensure that a child's Blood Lead Level is tested at, or near, 12 months of age and is tested at, or near, 24 months of age.
2. Any child between the age of 24 and 72 months with no record of a previous Blood Lead Level, or whose blood lead level has not been tested once after the age of 21 months, must receive a Blood Lead Level test at the next practicable opportunity.

Section 3. Provision of Additional Care to Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

For children with an Elevated Blood Lead Level, the primary care provider shall provide, or make reasonable efforts to ensure the provision of, follow-up care consistent with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as they may be updated from time to time. Current recommendations are available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/advisory/acclpp/actions-blls.htm>.