



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Lead Screening Requirements for Child Daycares, Preschools and Schools

1. What are the lead screening requirements?

In summary, the requirements ask that all Rhode Island children **under 6 years of age** (9-71 months) be screened for blood lead at least once annually. Screening may be discontinued at 3 years of age if all prior tests were not elevated, the child has not moved, and the home has not undergone renovations.

- The lead screening requirements are stated in full in the Rhode Island Department of Health's (HEALTH) *Rules and Regulations for Lead Poisoning Prevention*, section 3.0 (http://www.rules.state.ri.us/rules/released/pdf/DOH/DOH_3357.pdf).

- For a copy of HEALTH's *Lead Screening and Referral Guidelines* visit us at http://www.health.ri.gov/lead/family/lead_poster.pdf or call us at 222-2312.

2. What is required of preschools and schools (kindergarten students only) to ensure that a child is in compliance with lead screening requirements?

The lead screening entry requirement for preschools and schools asks that all public and private kindergartens, daycares, preschools, early childhood education programs or other child care facilities, require a statement from the child's health care provider at the time of **initial** enrollment indicating compliance with lead screening requirements.

3. Who is responsible for ensuring that the lead screening schedule is followed?

It is the responsibility of the child's healthcare provider and/or medical home to ensure that the child is screened in accordance with the above schedule. If the child is uninsured and does not have a health care provider or medical home they may be referred for free lead screening at Hasbro Children's Hospital (444-3851) or St. Joseph Hospital (456-4152).

4. What kind of statement or proof of lead screening from the health care provider is needed to indicate compliance with the lead screening requirements?

A simple yes or no statement such as: Child is in compliance with lead screening, with a health care provider's signature on a school health form. This is sufficient to comply with the lead screening school entry requirements. Health care providers are not required to report test results.

Continued

5. Do I need detailed information such as dates and results of lead screening to meet the State lead screening school entry requirement?

No. Although some preschools and schools may have policies in place requesting this information, the Lead Law (<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.6/INDEX.HTM>) does not give HEALTH the authority to require reporting of results.

6. Should we exclude a child from preschool or school if the lead screening requirement for school entry is not met?

No, the law does not give HEALTH the authority to require exclusion. Not being screened for lead poisoning does not pose a risk to any other students, therefore exclusion is not warranted.

7. Is there an exemption for the lead screening requirement?

Yes. The screening requirement does not apply if a child's parent or legal guardian signs a statement indicating that blood lead screening is contrary to his/her religious beliefs. Lead screening exemption forms can be obtained by contacting the Family Health Information Line at 1-800-942-7434.

8. Where can I get more information about childhood lead poisoning?

Visit HEALTH's website at www.health.ri.gov/lead/index.php or call the Family Health Information Line at 1-800-942-7434.

Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

**For more information about childhood lead poisoning
call the Family Health Information Line
1-800-942-7434**

**Questions or comments may be directed to Magaly Angeloni at 222-4602 or
magaly.angeloni@health.ri.gov**

March 2007