



UNIVERSAL BLOOD LEAD SCREENING REQUIREMENT FOR REFUGEES

Screen all refugee children ages 6 months through 16 years of age (6 months - 191 months) with a venous blood lead test upon entry to the United States at the initial refugee health assessment (recommended within 30 days of arrival and mandated within 90 days of arrival).

The following outlines risks that may be specific to refugee children:

1. 1. Children may have pre-existing health burdens, such as chronic malnutrition, and may have barriers (i.e. language, cultural boundaries) that put them at higher risk for lead poisoning.
2. 2. Children may mouth or eat non-food items, such as soil, which may put them at increased risk for lead poisoning despite the age of the housing in which they are living.

VENOUS BLOOD LEAD SCREENING GUIDELINES FOR REFUGEES

Venous Blood Lead Level (BLL)	Recommended Actions For Primary Care Provider	Actions Taken by the Rhode Island Department of Health
<5 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat blood lead test within 3 months for children 6 months through 16 years of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor follow-up screening performed within 6 months (180 days). No action taken unless exposure sources change.
5-14 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retest child within 3 months (90 days). Explain child's lead level to parents. Educate family on lead sources and exposures. Test siblings if concern is present. Provide lead education (for brochures, call 1-800-942-7434). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mail lead educational materials directly to parents. Work with the Refugee Resettlement Agencies to translate and explain the materials as needed. Work with the Refugee Resettlement Agencies to encourage families to accept a Family Outreach Program visit. Monitor follow-up screening performed within 3 months (90 days).
15-19 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow same recommendations for venous BLL 10-14 µg/dL. Inform family that they have been referred by the Department of Health for non-medical case management services provided by a lead center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer family to a lead center for non-medical case management services (free lead education home visit, visual assessment, risk assessment, and follow-up screening). Work with Refugee Resettlement Agencies to encourage acceptance of services from a lead center. Track all referrals for case management. Monitor follow-up screening performed within 3 months (90 days).
20-44 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child needs medical evaluation and treatment. You can refer for medical follow-up at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hasbro Lead Clinic: 444-5255 St. Joseph's Lead Clinic: 456-4310 Memorial Hospital: 729-2831 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer family to a lead center for non-medical case management services (free lead education home visit, visual assessment, risk assessment, and follow-up screening). Work with Refugee Resettlement Agencies to encourage acceptance of services from a lead center. Track all referrals for case management. Refer for an environmental inspection if child is under 6 years of age.
> 45 µg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If venous BLL screening is > 45 µg/dL, repeat test immediately as a stat lab test. If stat lab test result is > 45 µg/dL consider hospitalization. Follow same recommendations for venous BLL 20-44 µg/dL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expedite a referral for non-medical case management services provided by a lead center. Refer for an environmental inspection if child is under six years of age.

Questions?

Call Anne Primeau-Faubert
Rhode Island Department of Health, (401) 222-7747

Online Information

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program,
www.health.ri.gov/lead

Rhode Island Department of Health

HEALTH Information Line.....222-5960
Refugee Health Program.....222-2901
Laboratory.....222-5600

Refugee Resettlement Agencies

International Institute of Rhode Island.....461-5940
Diocese of Providence.....421-7833 x131

Lead Centers

Blackstone Valley Community Action.....723-4520 x227
St. Joseph Hospital Lead Center.....421-8595
Westbay Community Action.....732-4660
Eastbay Community Action.....437-0006 x141

Additional Resources

Rhode Island Housing.....751-5566
Department of Environmental Management.....222-1360
Childhood Lead Action Project.....785-1310