

# What Your Child's Fingertip Blood Lead Test Means

A capillary test uses blood from a fingertip (or heel of the foot) to tell us if your child might have been exposed to lead.

Fingertip blood lead tests can produce higher results if there is lead on the skin during the test. For this reason, high lead levels from a fingertip test should be followed by a venous test.

A venous test uses blood from a vein and is more accurate.

**If the fingertip test result is high, a venous test must be completed to confirm the blood lead level is high.**

Lead can be found in all parts of our environment, including our home. Lead in children's homes can be found in:

- Paint.
- Dust.
- Drinking water.
- Soil.
- Certain jobs and hobbies.
- Household items & goods from other countries.



See the table below to help understand what your child's fingertip blood lead test means.

| Blood Lead Level                        | What This Means                              |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 3.5–19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$          | Your child's lead level is high.             |
| 20–44 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$           | Your child's lead level is very high.        |
| 45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$<br>OR HIGHER | Your child needs to see a doctor right away. |

**Follow up with your child's doctor to schedule a test using blood from a vein to confirm that the blood lead level is high.**

If your child has an elevated blood lead level, there are services to support you and your family. These services include:

- Help coordinating care from nurses trained in lead offered by your local health department.
- The Lead Safe Home Program (URL: [bit.ly/ApplyLeadServices](https://bit.ly/ApplyLeadServices)) which helps families identify and remove lead hazards from homes. Apply to determine eligibility.

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe](https://Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe) or call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 517-335-8885.

# Make Every Day Lead Safe



**Wash your hands frequently**



**Do not wear shoes in house**



**Eat foods high in calcium and iron**



## Are you cleaning lead safely?

- Use throw-away supplies and towels.
- Wear rubber gloves or wash your hands well after cleaning.
- Use soapy cleaners.
- Rinse with fresh water after cleaning.
- Throw away wipes after cleaning each area.
- Empty wash water down a toilet.
- Clean often.



## Does your home have lead plumbing or faucets?

If your home has or if you are uncertain if it has lead or galvanized plumbing, a lead service line carrying water from the street to your residence or old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014:

- Use a filter that is tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction or NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction.
- Always run your water until it's cold before drinking or rinsing foods.
- Use cold water for cooking and mixing formula.



## Thinking of making home repairs?

- Have your home tested for lead. Call the Lead Safe Home Program at 866-691-5323 to learn more.
- If your home was built before 1978, use a certified lead professional.
- Avoid power sanders, open-flame torches, heat guns, dry scrapers and dry sandpaper on painted surfaces.
- Paint over peeling or chipping paint.

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Childhood Lead  
Poisoning Prevention