

Health Advisory: Take-Home Lead Exposure

Minnesota Department of Health, Fri, Feb 10 11:00 CST 2023

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, travel clinics, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction in **Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Sherburne, Isanti, Chisago, Washington, and Mille Lacs** counties. (FYI to all other jurisdictions, no additional action requested.)

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to pediatricians, occupational health and employee health leadership, emergency department staff, primary care clinicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, and all other health care providers who might see patients for primary care or urgent care visits. Please notify all staff who answer phones or schedule appointments.

Health care providers:

- Offer blood lead testing to any workers of Federal Ammunition's manufacturing facility
- Offer blood lead testing to any household members of Federal Ammunition workers who are under age 18 or pregnant
- Review current blood lead screening guidelines to ensure ongoing blood lead testing of all children at 1 year and 2 years of age as well as older children and pregnant people with risk factors for lead exposure

Situation

The Minnesota Department of Health, Anoka County, and St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health identified at least four children with elevated blood levels due to exposure to lead dust that is believed to have been brought home accidentally on the clothing and personal items of family members who work at the Federal Ammunition manufacturing facility in Anoka. Many individuals with elevated blood lead levels do not exhibit overt clinical signs at the time of diagnosis. Therefore, it is imperative for health care providers to participate in a robust screening program to identify lead exposures.

Testing

Test all patients for lead at 1 year and 2 years of age, regardless of perceived risk factors for lead. Test older children and pregnant people for lead if they have at least one risk factor, such as living with someone with occupational exposure to lead, including those who work at the Federal Ammunition's manufacturing facility. Test any workers of Federal Ammunition's manufacturing facility for lead if they express concern about occupational lead exposure and have not received occupational exposure through their employer. Screening tests for lead can be performed using capillary or venous samples. Elevated capillary blood lead tests must be followed-up with a test on a venous sample.

For More Information

- [MDH: Blood Lead Screening Guidelines for Minnesota \(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/prof/guidelines.html#screening\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/prof/guidelines.html#screening)

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network \(www.health.state.mn.us/han\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/han)

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.