

ELMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT Elmont, New York 11003

LEAD POISONING INFORMATION



Lead is an element that has no useful purpose in the body and is known to cause harmful effects, including the neurological, hemato-poietic and renal systems. The effects can be insidious or acute. The likelihood that lead will cause harmful effects and the nature of these effects is related to the extent and duration of exposure.

When your doctor gives you the results of your blood test, use the following chart. It will help explain what the numbers mean.

If your doctor tells you that the results are . . .	You should . . .
0-9 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dl)	Continue routine testing. Not considered lead poisoning.
10 - 14 ug/dl	Rescreen frequently and consult with your doctor about prevention measures.
15-19 ug/dk	Obtain a medical checkup, determine the lead source, and seek advice about proper diet. Children may need medical treatment (chelation).
Above 44 ug/dk	Get immediate care. Considered serious lead poisoning.

RISK FACTORS FOR LEAD POISONING:

- Exposure to contaminated dust, soil, and water.
- Living in housing built prior to 1950.
- Poverty, race and ethnicity.
- Occupational exposure of the parent. Jobs involving exposure to lead are: refinishing furniture, welding, battery recycling, construction & pottery making.
- Exposure to parental hobbies that use leaded products. Loading ammunition stained glass, fishing sinkers etc.
- Exposure to folk remedies such as pay-loo-ah, greta, azarcon, bali gola, coral and several others.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- Use unleaded paints in the home, on furniture and children's toys.
- Wash your child's hands frequently. Dirt tracked into the home may contain lead. Young children do a lot of hand to mouth activity and will decrease exposure with clean hands.
- Encourage a diet adequate in calcium, iron and vitamin C. Lead is less likely to be absorbed if the intake of these vitamins and minerals is adequate.
- Know your child's blood lead level.

LEAD SCREENING INFORMATION

Nassau County Department of Health
106 Charles Lindbergh Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
(516) 227-9697 After Hours (516)742-6154
<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Health/FAQ/lead.html>

Publications:
New York State Department of Health
Box 2000
Albany, New York 12220