

Elevated Blood Lead Level Change FAQ

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has been receiving many questions around elevated blood lead levels. The definition of an elevated blood lead level (EBLL) has been updated. Blood lead levels above 3.5 µg/dL are now considered elevated. Answers to frequently asked questions about this change are listed below.

Does MDH provide risk assessments for children or pregnant people with blood lead levels (BLLs) 3.5–4.9 µg/dL?

MDH does not provide risk assessments for children or pregnant people with blood lead levels (BLLs) 3.5–4.9 µg/dL. MDH does not have the capacity to perform risk assessments to anyone with a BLL less than 5 µg/dL on a venous result at this time.

Do local public health provide services for children and pregnant people with BLLs 3.5–4.9 µg/dL?

Currently, most local public health agencies do not provide services for people with BLLs less than 5 µg/dL. MDH is updating guidelines and IT programs so local public health can follow up on blood lead levels 3.5–4.9 µg/dL. This change is still being implemented.

Should people with blood lead levels 3.5–4.9 µg/dL get follow-up blood lead tests?

MDH is updating our guidelines on medical follow-up. In the meantime, healthcare providers may choose to do follow-up testing for people with blood lead levels 3.5–4.9 µg/dL if they feel that is in the best interest of their patient.

