

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

April 12, 2013

Dear Clinical Partners:

On January 4, 2012, the national Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACLPP) released a report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which acknowledged the cumulative scientific evidence concerning a range of health impacts associated with blood lead levels less than 10µg/dL in children. The ACLPP recommendations and the CDC responses can be found on the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/ACCLPP/CDC_Response_Lead_Exposure_Recs.pdf.

Specific recommendations that were made by the ACLPP and accepted by the CDC were to:

- (1) base blood lead re-testing requirements and timelines on a 'reference value'¹ of 5 µg/dL; and
- (2) have clinicians take the primary role in educating families about *preventing* childhood lead exposure during well-child visits prior to blood lead testing occurring.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) reconvened the state's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Screening Advisory Committee to revise Connecticut's blood lead screening requirements and medical follow-up guidelines to align with the national recommendations. The two-page advisory entitled, *Requirements and Guidance for Childhood Lead Screening by Health Care Professionals in Connecticut* are attached.

Major revisions to the requirements and guidelines include: (1) lowering the blood lead level for retesting from 10µg/dL to 5µg/dL; (2) testing and re-testing timelines; and (3) streamlining the risk assessment questions.

The CT DPH has developed a simple educational packet, to be provided at well child visits, consisting of two informational sheets that cover the basics about lead poisoning prevention and nutrition. The information included is: *Lead Poisoning Prevention* and *Eating Right Helps Fight Lead Poisoning*.



If you require aid or accommodation to participate fully and fairly in this meeting, please phone (860) 509-7293

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To summarize, CT DPH seeks your assistance with:

1. Reminding parents that there is no safe blood lead level.
2. Reminding parents that it is the law to have their child tested.
3. Ensuring medical re-testing according to established timelines when a child is identified as having a blood lead level at or above the new 'reference value.'
4. Providing lead poisoning prevention educational information during well child visits.

Primary prevention is paramount in our collective efforts to reduce and eliminate childhood lead poisoning and clinicians are essential to this effort. Your collaboration on this effort is critical to the health of your patients.

Please feel free to contact the CT DPH Lead and Healthy Homes Program at 860-509-7299 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jewel Mullen" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
Commissioner

ⁱ The reference value is based on the 97.5th percentile of the blood lead level distribution in children 1-5 years of age in the U.S. Based upon current data the reference value blood lead level is 5µg/dL.