



Florence County Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Childhood Lead Testing Recommended for Children

[Florence, WI] –

Should your young child be tested for lead? Between the ages of 1-5 years old, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends blood lead testing twice for each child. It is ideal to have the test once between the ages of 1-3 years of age and again between the ages of 3-5 years of age. Taking the lead test through a blood sample is a simple procedure which can be done at your healthcare provider's office through a finger prick.

Why is it important to test for blood lead twice before five years of age? Lead poisoning is defined by the CDC as a blood reference value of 3.5 or higher. Providers may take a second test through a blood draw to validate an initial high test as the blood draw is more reliable. High blood lead levels can lead to serious short and long term effects to a child's behavior and ability to learn.

Are you worried about the cost? Health insurances are required to cover blood lead tests through preventive visits with no out of pocket costs. Medicaid/Badgercare also covers both tests for young children.

For more information, go to the Florence County Health Department webpage at <http://www.florencewipublichealth.com/> or you may call the Florence County Health Department at 715-528-4837. The Florence County Health Department is located on the first floor of the courthouse. The department is open 8:00-4:30pm Monday through Thursday. Need health insurance? Visit access.wi.gov to see if you qualify for benefits.

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