

Risk Assessment Questions

In addition to the required screening at ages one and two, assessment of risk for high-dose lead exposure should be done at least annually for each child six months to six years of age. The following questions serve as a risk assessment tool based on currently accepted public health guidelines. Children found to be at risk for lead exposure should receive a blood lead test whenever such risk is identified.

Risk Assessment Questionnaire	Yes	No
<p>1. Does your child live in or regularly visit an older/building with peeling or chipping paint, or with recent or ongoing renovation or remodeling. <i>Consider day care, preschool, school and home of babysitter or relative. Ask if any move, repair, or renovation is planned and provide anticipatory guidance if needed. Children with Medicaid, those entering foster care, and recently arrived refugees are more likely to live in older, poorly maintained housing and have higher rates of lead poisoning.</i></p>		
<p>2. Has your child spent any time outside the U.S. in the past year? <i>All foreign born children should be tested upon arrival in the U.S., due to higher lead risk in many foreign countries.</i></p>		
<p>3. Does your child have a brother, sister, housemate or playmate being followed or treated for lead poisoning?</p>		
<p>4. Does your child eat non-food items (pica)? Does your child often put things in his/her mouth such as toys, jewelry, or keys? <i>Children with developmental disabilities are at higher risk for pica. Product recall info: www.cpsc.gov.</i></p>		
<p>5. Does your child frequently come in contact with an adult whose job or hobby involves exposure to lead? <i>Jobs such as house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, battery recycling, lead smelting, jewelry, stained glass or pottery making, fishing (weights), making or shooting firearms, or collecting lead or pewter figurines.</i></p>		
<p>6. Does your family use traditional medicine, health remedies, cosmetics, powders, spices, or food from other countries? <i>Lead has been found in items such as: Ayurvedic medicines, alkohol, azarcon, greta, litargirio, ghasard, pay-loo-ah, bala goli, Daw Tway, Daw Kyin; in cosmetics such as kohl, surma, and sindoor; and in some candles and other products from Mexico. More information is available at: www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/sources.htm</i></p>		
<p>7. Does your family cook, store, or serve food in leaded crystal, pewter, or pottery from Asia or Latin America? <i>Lead exposure risk from pottery is higher with: old, cracked/chipped, and painted china; low fired or terra cotta pottery from Latin America or the Middle East. Also, imported samovars, ums, and kettles could be soldered with lead.</i></p>		

If the answer to any of the above questions is YES, then the child is considered to be at risk of high dose lead exposure and should be screened with a blood lead test.