

# Special Bulletin

For professional providers

October 17, 2025

## Protect Delaware's Children from Lead Poisoning

With National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week occurring this month (Oct. 19-25, 2025), it's important to prioritize blood lead screening for young children.

- **Too many children with elevated lead levels** – In 2023, Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, [Division of Public Health data](#) showed that approximately 63% of children 0 – 72 months were tested. Of those children screened, over 800 (nearly 10%!) had elevated blood lead levels  $\geq 3.5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  from their initial screen.
- **New exposure risks** – Lead continues to be identified in [everyday items](#) like food, clothing, and toys.

As you know, lead exposure can have [devastating, long-lasting effects](#) on children, including slowed development, learning and behavior problems, and speech and hearing difficulties.

### Take Action Today

- **Educate families:** Discuss the importance of lead screening and the dangers of lead poisoning with all parents or guardians.
- **Offer in-office screening:** Provide convenient in-office blood lead screening to improve completion rates and ensure continuity of care.
- **Test at every opportunity:** Each office visit, including sick visits, can be used to perform blood lead testing based on guidelines. Children should be screened for lead based on guidelines.
- **Use CPT Code 83655:** This code indicates that a blood lead test was performed.

### Additional Resource for Parents

The National Lead Information Center (800-424-LEAD) can provide education and guidance for parents on preventing exposure, resources for lead removal, and consumer alerts.

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