
LEAD POISONING PREVENTION & TREATMENT UPDATES

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Welcome

The newsletter will provide you with information from the current research literature and updates on available resources related to lead poisoning prevention. With your help we will strive to reach the goal of eliminating lead as an environmental hazard by 2010. This quarterly newsletter is a collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Health's Lead-Safe Virginia Program and the University of Virginia's Virginia Children Division of Medical Toxicology.

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PHONE NUMBERS TO KNOW

- **Lead-Safe Virginia, Virginia Department of Health**
(877) 668-7987
- **24-hour Healthcare Professional Lead Emergency Hotline** (866) SOS-LEAD

FDA BROADENS ACCESS TO LEAD SCREENING TEST THAT GIVES IMMEDIATE RESULTS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on September 18, 2006 expanded the availability of the first simple and portable lead test system to more than 115,000 certified point-of-care locations nationwide, including healthcare clinics, mobile health units and schools.

"Broader availability and easier access to this test means healthcare providers will have more opportunities to test for lead exposure in the community and detect and treat people earlier, before the damaging effects of lead poisoning occur," said Andrew von Eschenbach, M.D., acting commissioner, Food and Drugs. "FDA's expansion of the test's availability bolsters ongoing efforts to reach populations at greatest risk for lead poisoning and to expand testing inside communities. This may be particularly true for young children and inner city residents who may face obstacles accessing healthcare."

The test, called the LeadCare II Blood Lead Test System and made by ESA Biosciences of Chelmsford, Mass., is used to screen for harmful levels of lead using a finger stick or venous whole blood sample. It is performed while the patient is present, in as little as three minutes. The rapid result means a second sample for further testing can be obtained quickly if needed, reducing the need for a follow-up visit. A venous sample on all elevated LeadCare results must be sent to a CLIA approved laboratory as this method is approved as a screening method. Virginia regulations require all lab tests to be reported electronically, and ESA has developed software to provide an export file to meet state regulations.

FDA broadened access to the test system by granting an application to categorize the test as waived under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA). This permits widespread distribution to

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RESOURCES

Lead-Safe Virginia
www.vahealth.org/leadsafe

Search for recalled lead items:
[U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](http://www.cpsc.gov)
www.cpsc.gov

Download copies of the *Guidelines for Childhood Lead Poisoning Screening in Virginia*:
http://www.vahealth.org/leadsafe/Rev_Screening_04.pdf

CDC Spotlights on Lead
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>

EPA Lead Page
www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead/index.html

HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control
www.hud.gov/offices/lead

Children's Environmental Health
<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/oc/factsheets/ceh/home.htm>

National Lead Information Center
<http://www.nsc.org/ehc/lead.htm>

National Center for Lead Safe Housing
<http://www.cehn.org/cehn/resourceguide/nclsh.html>

ONLINE LEAD EDUCATION

New! Education in lead poisoning topics for health care professionals. Free CME for Virginia Physicians.

Current courses:

- Lead Pathophysiology
- Sources of Lead Poisoning

More courses to follow. <http://www.leadpoison.org>

nontraditional laboratory sites that have a CLIA waiver certificate.

Currently, the test is only available at certain hospitals, private and public health laboratories, and other testing facilities with the capability of performing moderate- and high-complexity testing. Patients whose results are borderline or positive must make a second appointment with their doctor for follow-up testing. However, some patients fail to do so, and doctors sometimes have difficulty reaching patients to give them their results or to discuss treatment options.

The ease and accuracy of the test system was evaluated by testing 516 blood samples over a two-month period at 11 sites. The test instrument applies an electrical current to the patient's blood sample, causing lead to collect on disposable sensors. Blood lead values above 10 milligrams per deciliter need to be **confirmed** with another laboratory method.

For more information on the LeadCare II Blood Lead Test System from the FDA (pictured below), go to www.fda.gov/cdrh/oivd/leadtest-qa.html.



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