

Title 26 DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Subtitle 02 OCCUPATIONAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND RESIDENTIAL HAZARDS

Chapter 01 Blood Lead Reporting

Authority: Environment Article, §6-303, Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

- (1) "Department" means the Department of the Environment.
- (2) "Laboratory" means a medical laboratory as defined in COMAR 10.10.01.
- (3) "Local health department" means the health department of the Maryland subdivision where the patient resides.
- (4) "Parent/guardian" means an individual acting in a primary custodial capacity.

.02 Information to be Reported.

A. Who Shall Report. The laboratory, office, or other facility that draws blood from any child 18 years old and younger for analysis of blood lead levels shall obtain the information required by §D of this regulation at the time of drawing the blood.

B. Time and Method for Reporting by Facilities in which Blood is Initially Drawn.

- (1) A laboratory that performs blood lead level testing shall provide referral forms of paper or electronic requisitions that specify that required information for use by laboratories, offices, or facilities that collect a blood lead specimen.
- (2) The facilities that collect a blood lead specimen shall:
 - (a) Record the information on the testing laboratory's referral form or similar form providing all the required information; and
 - (b) Forward the information concurrently with the blood to the laboratory that conducts blood lead testing.

C. Time and Method for Reporting by Laboratories. The blood tests for lead to be reported by laboratories under this regulation shall be reported in the format approved by the Department and shall include the information required by §D of this regulation.

D. The blood tests for lead to be reported shall include the following information:

- (1) The child's demographic information including:
 - (a) Name (first, last, middle initial);
 - (b) Date of birth, sex, and race;
 - (c) Complete home address at the time the blood specimen was drawn including house or apartment number, street, city or town, county or Baltimore City, zip code, and state;
 - (d) Telephone number; and
 - (e) Parent/guardian's name;
- (2) Type of specimen (venous or capillary), and date the specimen was drawn;
- (3) Clinic/practice name, address, and telephone number;
- (4) Draw site name and address (if different from clinic/practice) if required by Regulation .03B of this Chapter;
- (5) Laboratory name, address, and telephone number;
- (6) Blood lead level in micrograms/deciliter; and
- (7) Any additional information as may be required by the Department.

.03 Missing Information.

A. A laboratory that receives a blood specimen without all the required information shall:

- (1) Within 3 business days of receipt of the specimen, deliver a written or electronic message citing these regulations and requirements, requesting that all the required missing information be forwarded to the laboratory, to the facility that provided the blood specimen; and
- (2) Upon receipt of the required information, collate and transmit the information to the Department within the timelines set forth in Regulation .04C of this chapter.

B. When the medical laboratory reports results to the Department with required information omitted, the laboratory shall concurrently provide the name and address of the medical laboratory, office, or facility in which the blood was initially drawn and which failed upon request to forward the required information to the laboratory.

C. The laboratory, office, or facility in which blood was initially drawn shall respond to a written message from a laboratory which did not receive all the required information by providing the information to the laboratory within:

- (1) 1 business day of receiving the message regarding a lab result of 20 micrograms/deciliter or more; and
- (2) 5 business days of receiving the message for all other test results.

D. A laboratory not permitted in accordance with COMAR Title 10 to perform blood tests for lead which accepts a blood lead specimen from a health care provider for referral to another laboratory for analysis shall insure that the requisition record includes all of the information that is required and that this information is transmitted to the laboratory performing the analysis with the blood lead specimen.

.04 Laboratories that Perform the Tests.

A. Reporting to the Department. The director of a laboratory shall report to the Department the results of all blood tests for lead performed on any child 18 years old and younger, who resides in Maryland.

B. Additional Reporting Requirements.

(1) In addition to the requirements of §A of this regulation, the director of a laboratory shall report to the Commissioner of the Baltimore City Health Department the results of all blood tests for lead performed on any child 18 years old and younger, who resides in Baltimore City.

(2) These requirements do not relieve a laboratory from reporting the results of blood lead tests to:

(a) The health care provider that ordered the tests; or

(b) Any other entity as required by State, federal, or local statutes or regulations or in accordance with accepted standards of practice.

C. The results shall be reported within the following time frames:

(1) Blood lead test results of greater than or equal to 20 micrograms/deciliter shall be reported by facsimile or other method approved by the Department by the close of business of the second working day following final test results; and

(2) All other blood lead test results shall be reported within 2 weeks of final test results.

D. Laboratories that use an electronic system for tracking test results shall report electronically in a manner consistent with the technical specifications established by the Department.

E. Laboratories shall collate information which is collected to complete previously incomplete requisitions before submitting that information in accordance with this regulation.

.05 Reporting by the Department.

A. The Department shall report the information received under Regulation .02 of this chapter and the results of tests indicating a blood lead level greater than or equal to 15 micrograms/deciliter to the:

(1) Local health department in the jurisdiction in which the child resides; and

(2) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

B. Time and Method for Reporting by the Department.

(1) The Department shall report blood lead test results of:

(a) Greater than or equal to 20 micrograms/deciliter by the close of business of the working day following the receipt of the final test results; and

(b) 15 micrograms/deciliter through 19 micrograms/deciliter within 2 weeks of the receipt of test results.

(2) The Department may report the results of blood lead tests of less than 15 micrograms/deciliter that were reported to the Department to the local health department or the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or both.

.06 Measures for Noncompliance.

A person who violates Environment Article, §6-303, Annotated Code of Maryland, or this chapter is subject to an administrative penalty of up to \$250 per violation, not exceeding \$10,000.

Administrative History

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