**Blood Lead**

***Laboratory Submission Information Sheet***

**Nine Steps To A Successful Capillary Blood Lead Screening**

1. Wash the child’s hand or foot thoroughly with soap and warm water. This step is very important to reduce the chance of a false positive due to contamination from a dirty finger
2. Put on gloves
3. With the child’s hand or foot facing up, place your thumb across the child’s fingers/toes, keeping the tip of the fingers/toes exposed. Use the child’s middle or ring finger/toe to take the specimen.
4. Clean the chosen finger/toe with an alcohol swab for 20 seconds, wipe dry with a sterile gauze pad. Again, this step is very important to reduce the chance of a false positive due to contamination from a dirty finger
5. Use the lancet to prick the finger/toe slightly off center
6. Apply moderate pressure slightly behind the puncture site to obtain a drop of blood. Allow the drop of blood to fall into the collection tube. DO NOT scrape the top of the collection tube over the puncture site
7. Release the pressure to allow recirculation, repeat step 6 and continue collecting blood until it reaches the first line of the collection tube (300µl)
   1. 300µl will allow for a duplicate analysis should it become necessary
8. Replace the cap and invert the tube approximately 20 times
9. Send the specimen to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory

**Information on using the Lead Care II Instrument**

1. Providers can submit blood lead samples to the State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory or perform capillary blood lead analysis using a CLIA waived in-office blood lead testing device and directly report all test results to MCLPPU.
2. Providers must have approval from the MCLPPU before they can begin in-office testing.
3. A venous test must be performed prior to initiation of MCLPPU services.
4. For more information please go to: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmentalhealth/eohp/lead/providers.shtml#howtotest>