

NYS School Nurses – Did you Know?

In the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), NYS school nurses can now see if a student had a lead test at age 1, age 2, and age 3-6 years. Some Head Start nurses have the same access. Additionally, if a child has a history of elevated blood lead level (>5 ug/dL) it will say: “View Blood Lead Test History – Action Required!”

Blood Lead Test History					
Age Tested	Completed	Age Tested	Completed	Age Tested	Completed
1 Year Old*	No	2 Year Old*	Yes	3-6 Year Old**	Yes
View Blood Lead Test History - Action Required!					
<p>* Required - New York State Public Health Law and Regulations Require Health Care Providers to test all children at age 1 year and again at age 2 with a blood lead test.</p> <p>** Not Required - One or more blood lead tests may have been completed during this timeframe.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click here to review the NYSDOH Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Lead Exposure in Children</p>					

The Blood Lead Test History is not accessible to school nurses. It can be obtained by contacting the doctor’s office.

Here are things to know and actions you can take using this information:

- The clinical management of a child’s lead exposure should be addressed by the child’s medical provider. Schools play a crucial role, however, in developmental assessment and initiating educational interventions as early as possible.
- Determine which children in your school have not had a blood lead test and urge parents to get them tested
- If a child is having behavior and/or learning problems, check their NYSIIS blood lead test record
- For children with the alert: “View Blood Lead Test History – Action Required!” contact the child’s primary care doctor to get their full blood lead level history
- Let the child’s teachers know (pre-K through high school) that children with a history of lead exposure will not necessarily have problems in school, but those with elevated lead levels have higher risk of developmental delays, IQ loss, ADHD symptoms, auditory processing problems and learning difficulty.
- The CDC recommends that schools closely monitor children who have a history of lead exposure and provide them with appropriate educational resources early on to overcome learning problems that may have resulted from this exposure. Share this CDC resource with teachers and other school staff:
Educational Interventions for Children Affected by Lead
(www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/Educational_Interventions_Children_Affected_by_Lead.pdf).