



- Healthy Homes Program
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- Occupational Health Program
- Radon Awareness Program

## **When Delaware’s Lead Poisoning Prevention Program becomes aware that a child (or group of children) has tested with a high blood lead level (BLL), what outreach measures to the family does it take in response?**

**Follow up that occurs for children with confirmed blood lead levels between 3.5mcg/dl and 9.9mcg/dl:** The parents/guardians who have children with confirmed blood lead levels between 3.5mcg/dl and 9.9mcg/dl are mailed educational materials from the Lead Program’s Health Coordinator. A cover letter is also included which encourages the parent/guardian to contact the Health Coordinator if there are any questions. The following topics are explained in the educational materials mailed:

- The meaning of an elevated blood lead level as it relates to the individual child
- Information on common sources of lead hazards
- Instructions to test the blood lead levels of all children aged six and under living in the same house; Mothers of child-bearing age should also be tested.
- The importance of good nutrition to lower the risk of lead poisoning
- The importance of good hygiene to lower the risk of lead poisoning
- Prevention activities that can reduce lead poisoning
- Encourage parent/guardian to contact the Health Coordinator to voice any concerns or questions

**Follow up that occurs for children with confirmed blood lead levels between 10mcg/dl and above:**

- In addition to all the information above being mailed to the parents/guardians, the Health Coordinator will call the parent/guardian and conduct a telephone consultation with the parent/guardian who have children with confirmed blood lead levels of 10mcg/dl or higher. This now becomes an “Open Case” and follows CDC guidelines for Case Management Standards.
- In addition to the telephone consultation and the home visit by a Health Coordinator, an investigation will be conducted by the Investigator. If lead paint hazards in the home are the likely cause of the high lead levels in the child, then a lead risk assessment of the residence will be arranged by the Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and conducted by an environmental testing firm under contract with the Office. A lead hazard risk assessment is an on-site investigation to determine the existence, nature, severity, and location of lead-based paint hazards. The lead hazard risk assessment report provides options for what must be done to fix any lead-based paint hazards found during the lead hazard risk assessment.
- If the investigation does not find that lead paint hazards in the home are the likely reason for the child having high lead levels, then a further investigation is conducted to try and determine the root cause of the lead exposure.
- Examples of other sources may include:
  - Lead dust brought home from work (construction, manufacturing, steel fabricating, etc.)
  - Imported items like spices, ceramic pots, cosmetics, home remedies

*Updated January 2022*