



Blood Lead Surveillance Branch

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Increasing Environmental Lead Investigation Capacity in Texas

Texas children can receive an environmental lead investigation (ELI) performed by a certified risk assessor with the Texas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (TX CLPPP). To do so, a healthcare provider can request an ELI if a child has met one of the following criteria:

- A venous blood lead test at 20 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or higher, or
- Two venous blood lead tests at least 12 weeks apart at 10-19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

Prior to 2024, there were only two TX CLPPP risk assessors to provide these services across the state of Texas. Due to the large geographical size of Texas (second largest state by area in the U.S.) and an increase in ELI requests with over 100 children eligible for an ELI in 2023, the program was spread thin. Many ELIs had to be scheduled out weeks to months in advance leading to a potential delay in the identification of lead hazards.

TX CLPPP determined that with the increase in ELI requests, adding a third risk assessor to the team would be the best approach to help with the demand. With over 35% of ELIs conducted in 2023 in greater Dallas-Fort Worth area, a third risk assessor in this location would provide optimal service. Living in the area would also decrease their travel time for ELIs. In June 2024, a third risk assessor was added to

the team. The new risk assessor is now certified, trained, and has started conducting ELIs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

By adding a third risk assessor that has been trained and certified, TX CLPPP is increasing its capacity to conduct ELIs in Texas. Our investigators serve a vital public health function because they go into the homes, living places, of children with elevated blood lead levels to help determine the source or sources of lead. They offer ways lead exposure can be mitigated or eliminated. This ensures that lead-exposed children are provided needed services in a timely manner.

Common Questions for Risk Assessors

What is an Environmental Lead Investigation (ELI)?

An Environmental Lead Investigation (ELI) is a service where a certified risk assessor (DSHS or Private) investigates the home of a child with a qualifying elevated blood lead Level (EBLL). The objective is to identify if any lead hazards are present in the home. If lead hazards are present, further education and guidance will be provided to the family.

What happens during an ELI?

Pre-ELI, the parent/guardian receives a phone call from a certified risk assessor and a Pb-103 questionnaire form is completed. A time is set up for the ELI. During the ELI the home is assessed (age, material, structural integrity) and an X-Ray fluorescence (XRF) analyzer is used to test materials in the home and educational materials are provided to the family. After the ELI is completed, sample results are discussed with the family and recommendations are provided verbally and in an ELI summary report. This helps reduce any possible lead exposure. The report is mailed to the family, provider who requested the ELI, and the landlord when applicable. The risk assessors also encourage future testing and monitoring for continued lead exposure.

What is tested during an ELI?

During the ELI the risk assessor tests a variety of items including painted surfaces inside and outside the home (doors, walls, baseboards, windows etc.) using the XRF analyzer. This can detect if lead paint is present immediately. Food items may also be collected if there is a suspicion that lead may be present. If food samples are collected, the risk assessors will focus on those that are ingested almost daily or those that may have already tested positive in previous ELI's (i.e. spices).

Current Lead Related Recalls

Nazzaro Recalls Children Bowling Pin Sipper Cups

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a recall on the Rebecca's Toys & Prizes Bowling Pin Sipper Cups. There are levels of lead in the red tape on the sipper cup that exceed federal lead content ban levels. The recall was issued on February 20, 2025 affecting roughly 2,400 units. Refunds can be issued to consumers after contacting Nazzaro at 800-777-2235 or emailing service@rebeccas.com.



Yaomiao Children's Jewelry Sets

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a recall on three Yaomiao-branded jewelry sets for children sold exclusively online at Amazon.com from January 2022-March 2024. These sets contain levels of lead that exceed federal lead content ban levels. The recall was issued January 2, 2025, and affects close to 7,000 units. Consumers should stop using the jewelry and remove them from children's possession. To receive a full refund buyers can contact LoardRoads by sending a photo of the disposed sets to simlordroadple@163.com



BASDEHEN Kitchen Faucet Recall

A recall was issued on May 29, 2025 by the Consumer Product Safety Commission involving Basdehen kitchen faucets. The faucets contain lead, which can leach into water at dangerous levels, potentially harming young children and infants. The recall involves around 24,000 faucets with the model number CFDTTH-000-YGH and were sold on Amazon from May 2024 through May 2025. Consumers should stop using these faucets and contact the Amazon storefront Chenfeng at ChenfengStoreF@outlook.com to inquire about receiving a refund and disposing of the product. If a consumer continues to use the faucet before replacement, it is best to only consume water after running the faucet for at least 15 seconds beforehand.



Recent Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Communications

In January 2025, the FDA released a statement that announced draft guidance for action levels for lead in processed foods. These action levels are aimed to prevent lead in foods for babies and children that are under the age of two years. This age group is considered a vulnerable population and dietary exposure to lead can cause adverse health effects. Some of the processed foods covered in the new guidance are jarred baby foods, pouches, tubs and boxes. The action levels for the draft guidance from the FDA can be found at <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-announces-action-levels-lead-categories-processed-baby-foods>.

In April 2025, the FDA issued an alert to health care providers letting them know that there is a risk of false positive lead test results using certain tubes for capillary blood collection. These tubes are the ASP Global's RAM Scientific SAFE-T-Fill Micro Capillary Blood Collection tubes that can be used with the Magellan Diagnostics LeadCare testing systems. To find more information about this alert please visit https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/safety-communications/risk-false-positive-lead-test-results-certain-capillary-blood-collection-tubes-used-magellan?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.