

Which sample type to use?

Blood lead tests fall into three main types:

Test type	Draw/Sample Type
Screening	Capillary OR Venous
Confirmatory	Venous
Monitoring	Venous

Note: Do not use Point of Service devices for confirmatory testing or monitoring.

Avoiding lead contamination

To minimize false positive results:

- Be careful when selecting gloves and towels. Some **gloves and recycled paper towels** have been found to contain lead and pose a risk of contamination.
- Wash child's hands thoroughly and **allow to air dry**. Do not dry with paper towels.
- **Jewelry** (on the patient, the parent or the person performing the blood draw) has been found to contain lead and could contaminate the specimen. All jewelry (including watches) should be removed and hands washed, before putting on gloves and drawing a sample.

Other items can cause lead contamination:

- Dust from vents, open windows or doors
- Cell phones, sunglasses
- Keys or key rings
- Other items children play with or chew on

Specimen Labeling

Information to include on lab requisition:

- Patient Name
- Patient Address
- Patient Phone
- Patient Gender
- Patient Birth Date
- Patient's Employer Contact Info (if applicable)
- Provider Name
- Provider Address
- Provider Phone
- Date of Collection
- Draw/sample type (capillary, venous)

Be sure that draw/sample type is included on the label (C for capillary, V for venous). Recommend: Write "Use certified lead-free tube" (e.g., tan top or royal blue top) on lab requisition. Any other tube must have been confirmed lead-free.

See video on collecting blood lead specimens on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) web site: CDC Guidelines for Collecting and Handling Blood Lead Samples (2004) -- www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/training/blood_lead_samples.htm

For more information, contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch at (510) 620-5600 or visit our web site at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CLPPB

Use the Proper Collection Tube

Tube must be proven lead-free

Capillary Samples



Capillary microcollection container
Top color: **Usually Lavender**
Use: **May use if certified for lead testing; several types available.**
Anticoagulant: **EDTA**

Venous Samples



Top color: **Tan**
Use: **Lead analysis**
Anticoagulant: **EDTA or Heparin***



Top color: **Royal blue**
Use: **Trace metals analysis**
Anticoagulant: **EDTA or Heparin***



Caution:
Only use for
lead analysis if
pre-screened

Top color: **Lavender**
Use: **Only use for lead analysis if pre-screened by lab**
Anticoagulant: **EDTA**

* check with analyzing lab in advance for acceptable tube type