

Exposure to lead

If you believe you or your children have been exposed to lead, contact your doctor.

Children under the age of 6 are at the highest risk for lead exposure.

The doctor will:

- Draw blood to check for lead.
- Help you identify the lead source and encourage you to avoid it and/or have it removed.
- Decide if you or your child needs treatment. There are different medical treatments depending on the level of lead in the blood. Talk with your doctor about what might be needed for you or your child once you get the results.



Anthem nurses and social workers are available to answer your questions. They can help make sure you receive lead testing and follow up. For more information or to get help, Hoosier Healthwise and Healthy Indiana Plan members can call 1-866-408-6131 (TTY 711); Hoosier Care Connect members can call 1-844-284-1797 (TTY 711).

Lead exposure is a serious health concern. Levels go up when lead builds up in the body, sometimes over a period of months or years. Even small amounts of lead can cause health problems. Lead-based paint and dust with lead in it are common sources of lead. Lead can also be found in water or soil.

What happens to me if I am exposed to lead?

Lead can affect nearly every part of the body. Because people exposed to lead often don't show symptoms, you may not know if you have been exposed.

Effects can include:



Children

- Behavior problems
- Learning difficulties
- Problems with brain development
- Slowed growth

Adults

- Dizziness
- Depression
- Tiredness
- Muscle pain

Any level of lead can be concerning. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends you call your doctor if you believe you have been exposed to lead.

Member Services and 24/7 NurseLine:

Hoosier Healthwise and Healthy Indiana Plan:
1-866-408-6131 (TTY 711)

Hoosier Care Connect: 1-844-284-1797 (TTY 711)



Who's at risk?

Children under the age of 6 are at the highest risk for lead exposure. Children may find and touch objects with lead dust on them, then put their hands into their mouths. Children living in older housing or living in poverty are at greatest risk.

Some adults, such as those who work with batteries, do home remodeling or work in auto repair shops, may also be at greater risk for exposure to lead.

Get kids tested

Children should receive a blood lead screening test between the ages of 9 and 12 months, and again at 24 months of age. If a child is at high risk for lead exposure, the first screening should be performed at the child's 6-month visit. Children between the ages of 3 and 6 years old must receive a blood lead screening if they've never been tested.

Protect your family from lead

1. Get your home tested. Ask for an inspection or buy a lead test kit.
2. Get your child tested by their doctor.
3. Get the facts. Your doctor or local health department can give you information.



www.anthem.com/inmedicaid

Sources: Indiana State Department of Health; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Call for free translation/Llame para una traducción sin costo: 1-866-408-6131 (Hoosier Healthwise, Healthy Indiana Plan); 1-844-284-1797 (Hoosier Care Connect); TTY 711.

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