

HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES BRANCH

DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

Child and Adolescent Health Program

**Screening of Children for Blood Lead at or Above the Blood Lead Reference
Value**

Readoption with Amendments: N.J.A.C. 8:51A

Proposed: May 6, 2024, at 56 N.J.R. 717(a).

Adopted: September 11, 2024, by Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM, Commissioner,
Department of Health (in consultation with the Public Health Council).

Filed: September 12, 2024, as R.2024 d.099, **without change**.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 26:2-137 et seq., particularly 26:2-137.7.

Effective Dates: September 12, 2024, Readoption;
October 7, 2024, Amendments.

Expiration Date: September 12, 2031.

Summary of Public Comment and Agency Response:

**No comments were received during the public comment period which ended on
July 5, 2024.**

Federal Standard Statement

The only Federal regulation governing lead screening of children is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that applies only to children enrolled in Medicaid and requires such children to be screened at 12 and 24 months, or between 36 and 72 months in the case of a child who has not been previously

screened. The current rules are as protective as the Federal rules. Accordingly, N.J.A.C. 8:51A would continue to govern lead screening for non-Medicaid enrolled children in New Jersey. The adopted amendments are as protective as Federal recommendations regarding childhood lead screening. The Department's adoption of a reference value of three and one-half µg/dL as the threshold for clinicians to provide education and to recommend follow up screenings is consistent with the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) position expressed in the publication "CDC Response to Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Recommendations in 'Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention'," and the CDC's current guidance.

Full text of the readopted rules can be found in the New Jersey Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 8:51A.

Full text of the adopted amendments follows:

TEXT