

ELABORATIONS

News and Issues for Washington's Clinical Laboratories

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ELABORATIONS is a free bi-monthly publication of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Laboratories (PHL) and the Medical Test Site (MTS) Program.

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Reporting Requirements for Blood Lead Testing and Changes to DOH Guidance

The Washington State Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (DOH CLPPP) has revised the state's blood lead action level, from 5.0 µg/dL to 3.5 µg/dL, to better protect children's health. DOH recommends that health care providers begin follow-up and confirmatory tests starting at 3.5 µg/dL. Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) may also begin providing follow-up services at 3.5 µg/dL, but this will be dependent on local resources, capacity, and priorities.

Although the state action level is changing, the reporting requirements for laboratories outlined in the Notifiable Conditions rule for lead levels will remain the same: report results ≥ 5 µg/dL within 2 business days, and all other results within 30 days ([WAC 246-101-201](#)). This means you are required to report all results to DOH, and results between 3.5 to 4.9 µg/dL must be reported within 30 days.

Clinics that use point-of-care (POC) lead screening devices, such as the Magellan Lead Care II unit, have the same reporting requirements as laboratories.

There are 2 options for reporting test results to DOH: using Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) or by reporting data directly to DOH CLPPP. All results are uploaded into the

Washington Disease Reporting System (WDRS). To learn more, visit DOH's [Blood Lead Reporting](#) webpage.

Your lab result report is the first step for case response and follow-up. It is vital to report complete information on all blood lead levels. Required demographic information can be found in [WAC 246-101-215](#). Once received, DOH sends lab results to the associated LHJ for appropriate action. If a lab result is not reported, the child will not receive public health action. Adults 16 and older receive follow-up from our partners at Labor and Industries Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES).

It is essential to complete and report blood lead tests so DOH and its partners can provide important public health services, assess whether more children are being tested, and determine whether we are meeting federal requirements. Increased testing also helps DOH analyze and understand children's risk of lead exposure throughout the state.

If your lab or clinic has any questions on reporting, please contact DOH CLPPP at lead@doh.wa.gov or call (360) 236-4280.

PLEASE NOTE:

The reporting requirements for laboratories in the Notifiable Conditions rule will remain the same: report blood lead results ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ within 2 business days, and all other results within 30 days.

Practice Guidelines



The following practice guidelines have been developed by the Washington Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council. They can be accessed at the [Medical Test Site Program website](#).

- Acute Diarrhea
- Anemia
- ANA
- Bioterrorism Event Management
- Bleeding Disorders
- Chlamydia
- Diabetes
- Group A Strep Pharyngitis
- Group B Streptococcus
- Hepatitis
- HIV
- Infectious Diarrhea
- Intestinal Parasites
- Lipid Screening
- PAP Smear Referral
- Point-of-Care Testing
- PSA
- Rash Illness
- Red Cell Transfusion
- Renal Disease
- STD
- Thyroid
- Tuberculosis
- Urinalysis
- Wellness



2026 Joint Spring Seminar, April 30-May1

33rd Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference, November 9, 2026

The Calendar of Events is a list of upcoming conferences, deadlines, and other dates of interest to the clinical laboratory community. If you have events that you would like to have included, please mail them to chuck.talbert@doh.wa.gov. Information must be received at least one month prior to the scheduled event. The editor reserves the right to make final decisions on inclusion in *ELABORATIONS*.

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