

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

FAQs about Childhood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Reports

What is the purpose of the Surveillance Report? To let you know that these children have at least one blood lead test result $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and need diagnostic (i.e. confirmation) or follow-up testing and to assure that NC CLPPP has received all blood lead test results for each child. The report also lists children who should be referred to Environmental Health at the local health department for environmental follow-up.

How do I get a Surveillance Report? NC LEAD users can print a Surveillance Report by clicking the “reports” icon after logging into the NC LEAD system. If you do not have access to NC LEAD, you can request a surveillance report via email nleadhelp@lists.ncmail.net or phone toll free at (888) 251-5543 and ask to speak to someone in the Childhood Lead Program.

What do I do with this report? When you get a report please check the spelling of names and date of birth information for children listed on this report. Records are matched by name and date of birth to produce this and other reports. If there is an error, blood lead records for children may be missing. If a test result is missing from the report, please fax a copy of the missing laboratory report to our secure fax number at (919) 841-4015.

Do I need to send laboratory reports for a child who is retested? According to state law, laboratories are required to report all lead test results for children electronically. Health care facilities that use point of care (POC) blood lead analyzers (e.g. LeadCare II) are also considered laboratories and are responsible for reporting blood lead test results electronically to NC CLPPP. Examples of acceptable electronic file formats are any spreadsheet or database format including .xls, .xml, and .acddb. Please contact Kim Gaetz at (919) 707-5953 to set up secure electronic reporting for your POC laboratory. If you send blood samples to an outside laboratory for analysis, the laboratory should report these results to NC CLPPP directly. However, if you notice a test result missing from the surveillance report, please fax a copy of the missing laboratory report to (919) 841-4015 or mail it to Children’s Environmental Health Program; NC DHHS, Division of Public Health; 1934 Mail Service Center; Raleigh NC 27699-1934.

Why are children listed who have moved or been reported as lost to follow-up? It is not unusual for a child who has moved to return to the state. Likewise, a child reported as lost to follow-up sometimes turns up again. By continuing to list these children on the report, it serves as a reminder that should they show up in the system again, they are still in need of clinical follow-up. If the child shows up in another county or is tested at another clinic, the child’s information will move off the report and show up on the other county/clinic surveillance report. If you have notified NC CLPPP that a child has moved or is lost to follow-up, this information should be listed on the report under Additional Comments.

How do I get a child listed as lost to follow-up? It is recommended that a certified letter be sent to the child’s last known address to document efforts to bring the child back in for follow-

up. You may also try contacting the family's local health department, Social Services or the WIC Program to see if they can provide additional information. If these efforts fail to get the child back in for follow-up services, you can notify the NC CLPPP that the child is lost to follow-up via phone (888) 251-5543, fax (919) 841-4015 or mail Children's Environmental Health Program; NC DHHS, Division of Public Health; 1934 Mail Service Center; Raleigh NC 27699-1934.

Still have questions? Please call (888) 251-5543 and ask to speak to someone in the Childhood Lead Program.