Protect your child from lead poisoning

Have your child tested for lead exposure at 12 months and 24 months of age.

The only way to know if your child has been in contact with lead is to have a blood test. Blood lead testing is now as simple as a 'finger stick.' The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approved a 'finger stick' method of lead screening. This test is available to your child at no cost.

Lead poisoning harms children.

Lead poisoning can cause serious health problems, especially in young kids. Lead is harmful to everyone, but children are at greatest risk for health problems. Lead poisoning can affect a child's intelligence, behavior, growth and hearing.

What to do if your child hasn't been tested.

If your child has not been tested at least twice for lead by 24 months, you still have time. Have your child tested before he or she is six years of age.

Call your child's primary care doctor right away and schedule an appointment. A result of high blood lead levels can be treated.

There are resources and organizations that can help too.

If you don't have a primary care doctor for your child, we'll help you find one. Call Aetna Better Health of Virginia Member Services at **1-800-279-1878 (TTY: 711)**.

For more information on lead, call the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) information line at **1-877-668-7987**. Parents can also visit **vdh.virginia.gov/leadsafe/information-for-parents**.

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VA-25-01-05