

# Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan Providers

From: Vicki Wrighster, Senior Director, Provider Network Operations

Re: **Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**

Date: Sept. 30, 2026

## Lead Poisoning Can Be Silent – A Blood Lead Test Can Make the Difference

### **Lead Poisoning Prevention Week: Oct. 25-31, 2026**

Ventura County Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) invites healthcare providers to join us in recognizing Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Oct. 25-31, 2026.

Lead exposure can affect a child's growth, learning behavior, and development, yet many children with lead exposure have no obvious symptoms. Because lead exposure may go unnoticed, healthcare providers play a critical role in prevention, early identification, and connecting families with appropriate resources.

#### **PROVIDERS: Make Lead Prevention Part of Every Pediatric Visit**

During Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, and throughout the year, we encourage providers and clinical staff to:

- **Educate parents and caregivers** about common sources of lead exposure and ways to prevent exposure.
- **Provide required anticipatory guidance** about childhood lead poisoning.
- **Assess children for lead exposure risk** and follow current California screening requirements.
- **Order blood lead testing when indicated** and complete required testing at the appropriate ages.

- **Use every visit as an opportunity** to identify children who may have missed earlier blood lead testing.

**NEW FOR PROVIDERS:** California lead screening regulation updates took effect July 6, 2026. Providers should become familiar with the updated requirements and ensure their screening and testing practices are consistent with current California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance.

The quick reference guide summarizes important blood lead screening and anticipatory guidance requirements.

## Lead Screening Guidelines – Provider Quick Reference

**California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated screening regulations effective July 6, 2026.**

Almost all California children are at risk of lead exposure and should receive a blood lead test at ages 1 and 2 years, consistent with applicable screening requirements.

| Topic                        | Provider Guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Anticipatory Guidance</b> | <p>Required for all children at each periodic health assessment from birth to 6 years.</p> <p>Healthcare providers are required to provide anticipatory guidance, informing parents and guardians about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risks and effects of childhood lead exposure</li> <li>• The requirement that children in Medi-Cal should be blood lead tested</li> <li>• The requirement that children not in Medi-Cal who are at high risk of lead exposure should also be blood lead tested</li> </ul> |
| <b>Blood Lead Screening</b>  | <p>All children in publicly funded programs for low-income children, such as Medi-Cal and WIC, are required to be tested at 12 and 24 months of age</p> <p>Perform catch-up test at 3 to 6 years if missed testing at either 12 or 24 months</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Assess</b>                | <p>For children not in a publicly funded program for low-income children, assess at both 12 months and 24 months of age:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>Ask: “Does your child live in, or spend a lot of time in, a place built before 1978 that has peeling or chipped paint or that has been recently remodeled?”</p> <p>&gt;&gt; Blood lead test if the answer is “yes” or “don’t know.”<br/>&lt;&lt;</p> |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**\*For the full screening regulations** and current CDPH guidance, providers should refer to the CDPH: [California Standard of Care on Screening for Childhood Lead Poisoning](#), California Health and Safety Code, Sections 105275-105310.

**\*For additional information, educational materials, or assistance:**

- [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention – Ventura County Public Health](#)
- [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch \(CLPPB\)](#)
- Ventura County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: 805-981-5291

If you have any questions, please email [clinicalqi@goldchp.org](mailto:clinicalqi@goldchp.org).

***Thank you for helping us create a healthier, lead-safe Ventura County where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.***



**Tuesday**  
**October 13, 2026**  
**CLPPP IN-SERVICE**  
**HYBRID MEETING**

**Presented by:**

**Healthy Children's Division, Tamiko Jordan, MD**  
**CLPPP, Michelle Santos, RN, PHN**  
**HHVC, Yvette Guerrero, HEA II**  
**GCHP, Chandra Schlee, RN, PHN**

**At the end of the session, YOU should be able to:**

- Understand the history of lead and its usage
- Explain the mechanism of toxicity
- Importance of timing of recommended screening
- Recognize signs and symptoms of lead poisoning and identify children at most risk
- Discuss common blood collection errors, blood collection types, and contamination prevention methods
- Discuss Healthy Homes Ventura County services, eligibility requirements and referral opportunities for families living in homes with potential lead hazards
- Documentation and timeliness of anticipatory guidance requirements
- GCHP/DHCS Compliance Standards and current rates

**Time & Location:**

**12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

**Ventura County  
Health Care Agency  
2240 E. Gonzales Road, 2nd Floor  
Room 200 Oxnard, CA 93036**

**Attend our in-service to  
receive a  
Certificate of Participation.**

**No Cost!  
Refreshments and Snacks will  
be provided.**

**To register, click the link or  
scan the QR code:  
<https://bit.ly/467Li1p>**



**CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING  
PREVENTION PROGRAM**

**2240 E. Gonzales Rd., Suite 270  
Oxnard, CA 93036  
(805) 981 - 5291**

**Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention  
- Ventura County Public Health  
([hca.venturacounty.gov](http://hca.venturacounty.gov))**