



HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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The Houston Childhood Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program (HCLPPP)

Lead Screening Guidelines for Children in Houston



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“No safe blood lead level in children has been identified in the United States and more than half a million children have elevated blood lead levels with yet millions still being exposed to lead in their homes and the environment.

Blood Lead Testing plays a critical role to ensure that children exposed to lead receive follow up services”.

-Dr. Anne Schuhat

Principal Deputy Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

February 15, 2019



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To respond to identified blood lead testing obstacles, a strategy should include the following:

- 1) increasing provider awareness of blood lead point-of-care (POC) testing;
- 2) implementing the HCLPPP education program for pediatric providers;
- 3) creating and distributing medical reference materials; and
- 4) developing reminders for parents to have their child's blood lead levels tested with follow-up care.



Reporting ALL Blood Lead Test Results is a law in Texas.

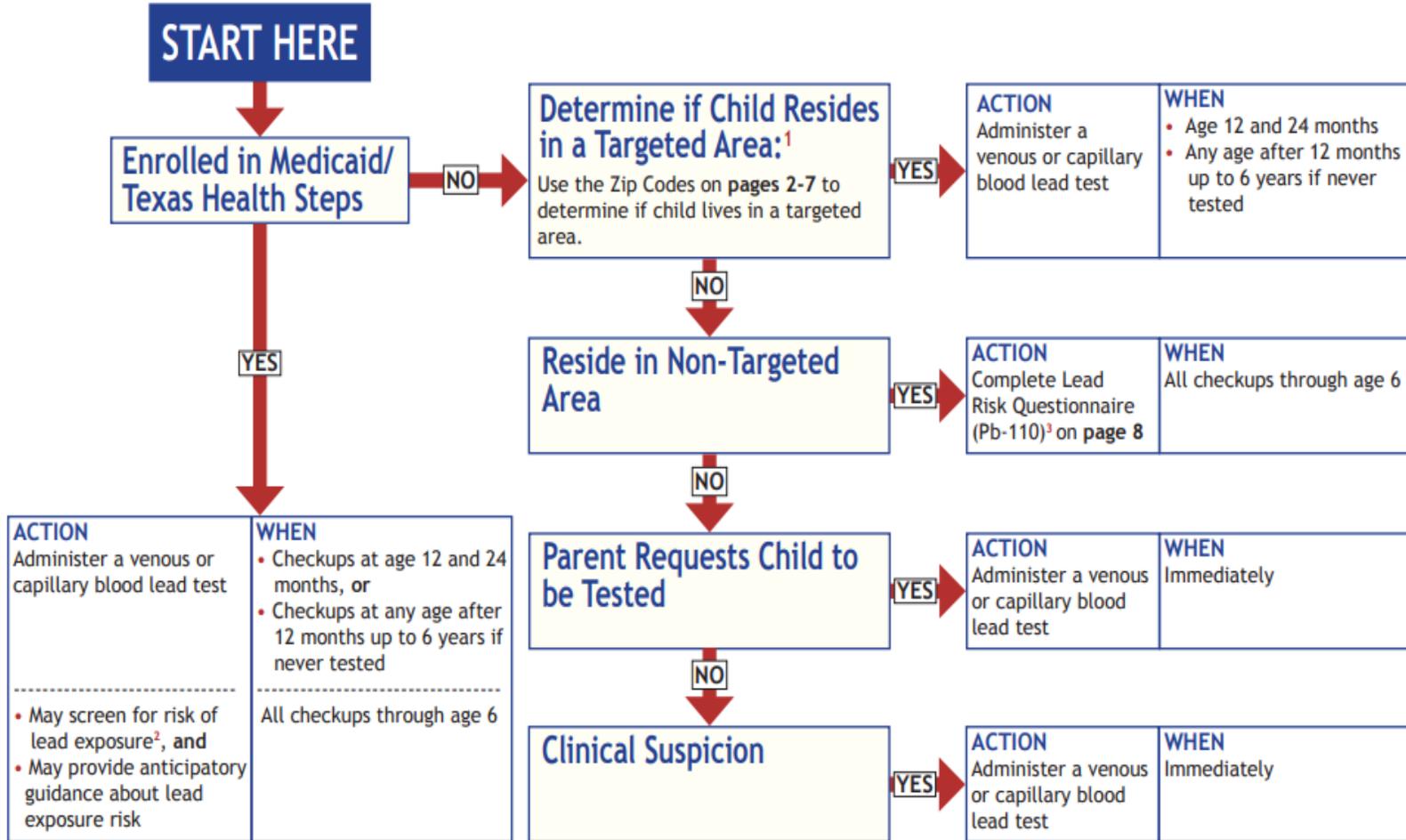
The following persons are required to report all blood lead results:

- Physicians
- Any persons in charge of a clinical or hospital laboratory, blood bank, mobile unit or other facility in which a laboratory examination reveals evidence of the reportable disease
- Health Professionals
- Administrator of a hospital
- Professional Registered Nurse
- Administrator or Director of a public health or private child care facility
- Administrator of a home health agency
- Administrator or Health Official of a public or private institution of higher education
- Superintendent, Manager or Health Official of a public or private camp, home or institution
- Parent, Managing Conservator, or Guardian

[Who is required to report?](#) from Texas Department of State Health Services.



Lead Screening in Houston



NOTE: After a blood lead test is administered and you receive the results; use Pb-109 Form⁴, *Reference for Follow-up Testing and Medical Case Management*, to determine if or when follow-up testing and medical case management is necessary.

¹Targeted zip codes have one or more associated census tract in which: (a) The percentage of children age 1-2 years old with a blood lead level ≥ 5 mcg/dL is $\geq 3\%$ among those tested in 2016 (Prevalence), or (b) The percentage of residential structures built before 1950 is $\geq 27\%$ (Housing). ²Only for Texas Health Steps Children - the use of the *Lead Risk Questionnaire* (Pb-110) and child health forms is optional. The child health forms are available online from Texas Health Steps at www.dshs.texas.gov/thsteps/forms.shtm. ³The *Lead Risk Questionnaire* (Pb-110) is recommended for children who reside in a non-targeted area. ⁴The Pb-109 and other TX CLPPP forms are available online at www.dshs.texas.gov/lead.

- Childhood Blood Lead Screening Guidelines are set by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS).
- TDSHS Form PB-120 outlines the lead screening requirements for children residing in Texas, including those in the City of Houston.



START HERE

**Enrolled in Medicaid/
Texas Health Steps**

NO

YES

ACTION

Administer a venous or capillary blood lead test

- May screen for risk of lead exposure², and
- May provide anticipatory guidance about lead exposure risk

WHEN

- Checkups at age 12 and 24 months, or
- Checkups at any age after 12 months up to 6 years if never tested

All checkups through age 6

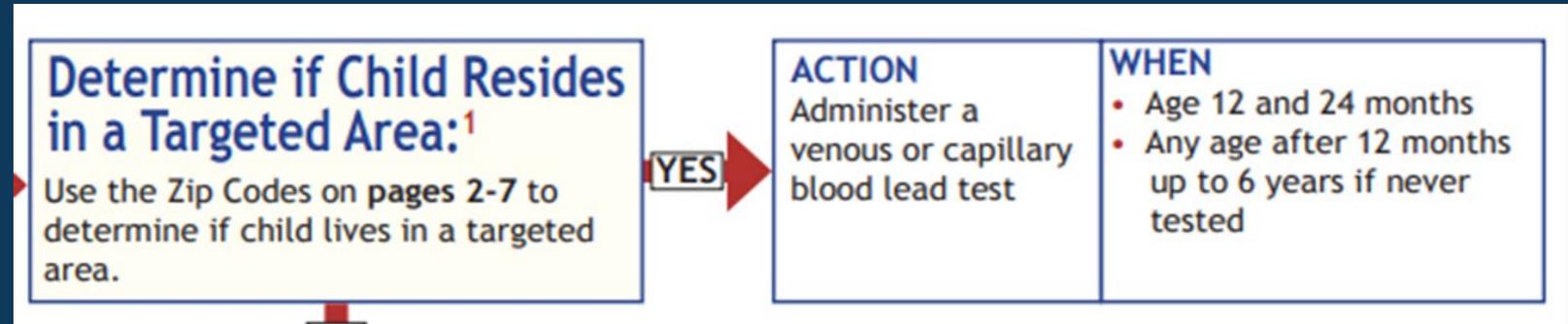
Screening in Houston: Medicaid Children

- All children enrolled in Medicaid/Texas Health Steps **MUST** be tested at checkups at ages 12 AND 24 months.
- Additionally, children should be tested at checkups after 12 months up to 6 years if the child has never been tested.
- HCLPPP recommends that providers consider screening for lead exposure risk at a child's 6 month checkup with the Lead Risk Questionnaire (PB-110), or at any checkup through age 6 years.



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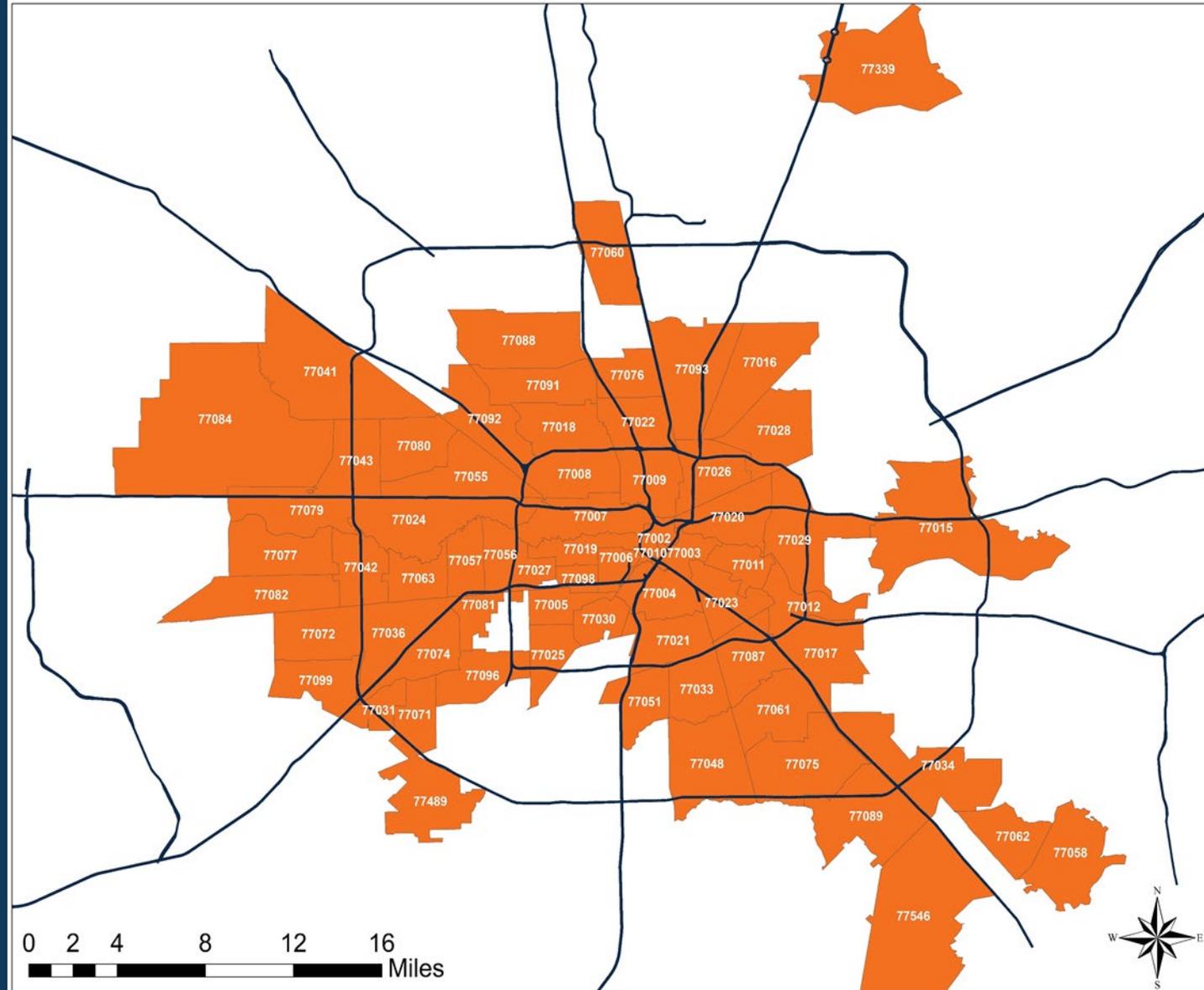
Screening in Houston: Targeted Zip Codes



- The City of Houston has targeted screening for lead in children under the age of 6 years based on zip code of residence.
- Any child residing in identified targeted zip codes must be blood lead tested at checkups at age 12 AND 24 months (or any checkup through age 6, if never been tested).
- Targeted zip codes are determined by the TDSHS based on specific criteria.

Houston's Targeted Zip Codes

- A targeted zip code has at least one associated census tract in which:
 1. The percentage of children age 1-2 years old with a blood lead level ≥ 5 mcg/dL is $\geq 3\%$ among those tested in 2016; OR
 2. The percentage of residential structures built before 1950 $\geq 27\%$.
- There are 67 targeted zip codes in the City of Houston (shown to the right).



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Additional Screening Guidelines

- If the child resides in a non-target zip code, the Lead Risk Questionnaire (PB-110) can be administered to determine lead exposure risk at all checkups through the age of 6.
- Blood lead tests should be given at any age, if:
 - A parent requests the child to be tested; or
 - There is clinical suspicion.
- HCLPPP also advises pregnant women to contact their provider to determine if a blood lead test is recommended.



Resources

- For any additional information or questions, please contact HCLPPP staff at 832-393-5157
- If you have immediate concern, please contact your child's provider.

References and links to TDSHS Forms:

- Gettens, G.C., & Drouin, B.B. (2019). Successfully Changing a State's Climate to Increase Blood Lead Level Testing. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, 25(1), S31-S36. doi: 10.1097/PHH.0000000000000888. Access [here](#).
- Texas Department of State Health Services (February 2018). Reporting Blood Lead Test Results: Who is required to report? Retrieved from <https://dshs.texas.gov/lead/Reporting-Laws-Administrative-Code.aspx>
- PB-120: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/lead/pdf_files/child_screening_2019.pdf
- PB-110: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/lead/pdf_files/pb110.pdf
- All other forms: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/lead/providers.shtm>

