

FILTER PAPER LEAD SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Collection technique is of primary importance when obtaining samples for blood lead determination. Lead is everywhere in the environment. Great care must be taken to remove lead from the hands of the patient and collector and to prevent contamination from the environment.

The following technique will produce a sample that is free from contamination and adequate for optimum analysis:

Note: Collection area should be clean and free of dust.

1. Fill out all information indicated on the MDH Blood Lead Report form. All patient information must be provided in order to be in compliance with state lead reporting guidelines.
2. Collector should wash hands with soap and water and instruct or assist patient in thoroughly washing hands with soap and warm water. Use of a brush may help improve circulation. Once hands have been washed, instruct the patient not to touch anything, although it is acceptable to dry the child's fingers with individually wrapped gauze. The hands of small children should be held at the wrist to prevent contamination.
3. Open the sample card to expose the filter paper and lay it on a clean, flat surface.
4. Put on gloves.
5. Isolate desired finger on patient's hand and thoroughly scrub tip of finger with an alcohol prep pad. Let the finger *air dry for 30 seconds* or wipe with sterile gauze.
6. Use a lancet to pierce the skin of the prepped finger. Wipe off the first drop of blood with sterile gauze.
7. Allow a blood drop to accumulate and fall onto one of the circles on the sample card. Collect a second blood drop on the second circle in the same manner.
NOTE: The circles are provided as a guide for the approximate size and location of the blood spots. The sample is acceptable if the blood spots fall outside of the circles as long as they are of adequate size and soak through to the back side of the filter paper.
8. Write patient's name on the sample card or place patient label on backside of sample card. Do not cover the "Place Requisition Number Here" box (Medtox internal use only).
9. *Allow the blood spots to dry for 2 to 5 minutes* and tuck in the top flap to create a "matchbook."
10. Place the sample card into a biohazard bag. Place completed MDH Blood Lead Report Form and Allina Medical Laboratories requisition in outside of pouch. Send to Allina Medical Laboratories with next available courier.

IMPORTANT: Immediately discard any collection paper that has been handled on the filter paper section or that has fallen onto an unprotected surface.