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Lead, Elevated Blood Levels  
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2010 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
09-OH-02  
Subtype(s)  
Lead, elevated blood levels, children (<16 Years)  
Lead, elevated blood levels, adult (≥16 Years)  
Subtype(s) Case Definition  
Expand All  
Lead, elevated blood levels, children (<16 Years)  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Blood lead concentration, as determined by a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified facility, ≥10 µg/dL (0.48 µmol/L) in a child (person <16 years of age)  
Case Classification  
Suspected  
A single capillary blood specimen with elevated lead concentration  
Probable  
Two capillary blood specimens, drawn greater than 12 weeks apart, both with elevated lead concentration  
Confirmed  
One venous blood specimen with elevated lead concentration, or two capillary blood specimens, drawn within 12 weeks of each other, both with elevated lead concentration  
Lead, elevated blood levels, adult (≥16 Years)  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
An adult blood lead level that should be maintained under surveillance by the National Public Health Surveillance System (NPHSS) is defined as an adult (≥16 years) with a venous (or comparable) blood lead concentration ≥10 µg/dL (0.48 µmol/L) of whole blood  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A one venous (or comparable) blood specimen with elevated lead concentration.  
Comments  
Laboratories should report any blood lead level to public health authorities. Health care providers should report elevated blood lead levels.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Lead, Elevated Blood Levels | 2016 Case Definition  
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NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
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