



# Provider Newsflash



A fax bulletin for the Molina Healthcare of Washington Provider Network

## **Preventive Health Guidelines Update**

February 11, 2026

Molina Healthcare of Washington (Molina) would like to remind our Pediatric and Family Medicine Providers that the Washington Healthcare Authority (HCA) requires all children enrolled in Apple Health (Medicaid) receive a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months of age, or at 24 to 72 months of age if no record of a previous test exists. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is lowering the state blood lead action level to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) beginning February 5.

There is no safe blood lead level. Lowering the action level allows for earlier identification of children with elevated blood lead levels and earlier intervention to prevent further exposure. A blood lead level of 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  is higher than more than 97% of U.S. children under age 6.

[Recommendations for Child Blood Lead Testing in Washington](https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/334-382.pdf) clinical algorithm found here:

<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/334-382.pdf>

Lead screening for children two (2) years of age is a HEDIS® measure regularly monitored by Molina and Washington state. We encourage providers to review the specifications for this HEDIS® measure within Molina's HEDIS® Tip Sheet. The HEDIS® Tip Sheet can be found by logging into Availity and going to Payer Spaces>Molina>Resources>Search for 2026 HEDIS Measure Guide. More information about best practices for lead screening in children can be found at the Washington Department of Health website: <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/healthcare-professions-and-facilities/professional-resources/blood-lead-testing>.