**Pediatric Lead Levels**

A high potential for lead contamination of capillary specimens is well documented. Special steps need to be used to minimize the likelihood of contamination.

***\*\*WHENEVER POSSIBLE, A VENIPUNCTURE SHOULD BE PERFORMED\*\****

Recognizing the difficulty of venipuncture in children, a preparation procedure for a capillary collection follows:

**Finger Preparation:**

1. Powderless gloves must be worn
2. Wash child’s hand thoroughly with soap and water and dry with clean, low lint towel. (Waterless soaps may be used, if necessary.) A brush may be used to clean debris under the fingernail (it will also increase the blood circulation to the finger). Once cleaned, the finger must not be allowed to come into contact with any surface, including the child’s other fingers.
3. Clean the pad of the finger to be punctured (middle finger or ring finger) thoroughly with an alcohol pad. Allow the fingertip to dry completely, do not wipe it off.

Follow the Capillary Collection Procedure

\*\*Any blood that is allowed to run down the finger should be considered contaminated

and should not be used in the collection.\*\*