



Penn Medicine

Lancaster General Health

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. Wear Powderless Gloves

- Always use powder-free, latex-free gloves to prevent contamination.

2. Wash the Child's Hand

- Use soap and water to clean the finger/hand thoroughly.
- Use a soft brush under the fingernail to remove debris and stimulate circulation.
- Dry with a clean, low-lint towel.
- If necessary, waterless (alcohol-based) hand sanitizers may be used.

3. Avoid Recontamination

- After cleaning, do not allow the cleaned finger to touch any surface, including other fingers.

4. Disinfect the Puncture Site

- Choose either the middle or the ring finger.



- Clean the pad of the selected finger with an alcohol pad.
- Allow to air dry completely — do not wipe or blow dry.

5. For further detailed instructions: refer to the Capillary Collection Procedure located on the Starnet under the department Laboratory, Phlebotomy Policies and Procedures

****Any blood that is allowed to run down the finger should be considered contaminated and should not be used in the collection. ****