This is an image of an up and down arrow key.  **Only use arrow down/up keys to navigate. Do not use tab key.**

**DCH-0575, Instructions for Submission of Specimens**

**for Blood Lead Testing**

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

Bureau of Laboratories

(Revised 1-25)

**Note: If the specimen container is received leaking, clotted, not properly labeled, test requisition not completed, or the specimen label does not match the test requisition exactly, the lab reserves the right to not test the specimen.**

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**section 1 – Capillary Whole Blood Collection Instructions**

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1. The individual collecting the specimen positively identifies the patient’s name and date of birth before collecting a specimen.
2. Warm the skin-puncture site with a warm moist towel for three minutes at a temperature no higher than 42ºC to increase blood flow.
3. Thoroughly wash patient’s hand or foot with soap and warm water. Allow the skin to air dry. Note that paper towels may contain lead contamination. Alcohol prep pads alone do not remove lead on skin
4. Once washed, the finger or foot must not come in contact with any surface (e.g. door, chair, countertop, or even the child’s other fingers) except the covered hand of the person performing the procedure.
5. Puncture finger/heel with supplied lancet, following guidelines recommended by the manufacturer of the lancet. Use of heel is preferable for children up to one year of age. If finger is used, puncture with the lancet perpendicular to the fingerprint for optimal flow.
6. To prevent lead contamination, do not allow the capillary micro-tube to touch the skin.
7. Fill the supplied EDTA capillary micro-tube with at least 250 µL.
8. Blood flow from the puncture site is enhanced by holding the puncture site downward. Do not squeeze/milk as this will introduce tissue fluid which dilutes blood serum.
9. After filling, close tube with attached cap and gently invert the tube up and down for 15 seconds to mix the blood with the EDTA.
10. Label the tube in the presence of the patient with the patient’s first and last name and a second unique ID (e.g., date of birth or identifier entered on the test requisition form under tube/submitter ID).
11. Refrigerate the specimen at 2-8 ºC until ready to ship to the laboratory. **Mail samples as soon as possible, but it is recommended no later than 7 days from the date of collection.**
12. Place each tube into its own individual zipper bag. Place up to 10 individual zipper bags into the plastic biohazard bag. Place the absorbent square inside the plastic biohazard bag. Do not allow the absorbent square to touch the collection tubes due to potential lead contamination. Seal the biohazard bag so that it is leak proof. Place the requisition form into the outside pouch of the plastic biohazard bag.
13. Place the plastic biohazard bag inside the assembled corrugated box and seal with packaging tape.
14. Complete the return mailing label and apply it to an outside of the corrugated box so that the entire label is on one face of the box. **Take samples to the post office; do not deposit them in a mailbox.** Send by U.S. Mail, not UPS.

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**section 2 – Venous Whole Blood Collection Instructions**

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1. The individual collecting the specimen positively identifies the patient’s name and date of birth before collecting a specimen.
2. Determine skin-puncture site and place a tourniquet above the collection site.
3. Disinfect site from which blood is to be collected with an alcohol prep pad and allow the skin to air dry.
4. With the bevel of the needle up, perform the venipuncture.
5. Fill the blood lead EDTA tube with at least 5.4 mL.
6. After filling, gently invert the tube up and down for 15 seconds to mix the blood with the EDTA.
7. Label the tube in the presence of the patient with the patient’s first and last name and a second unique ID (e.g., date of birth or identifier entered on the test requisition form under tube/submitter ID).
8. Refrigerate the specimen at 2-8 ºC until ready to ship to the laboratory. **Mail samples as soon as possible, but it is recommended no later than 7 days from the date of collection.**
9. Place each tube into its own zipper bag. Place up to 10 individual zipper bags into the plastic biohazard bag. Place the absorbent square inside the plastic biohazard bag. Do not allow the absorbent square to touch the collection tubes due to potential lead contamination. Seal the biohazard bag so that it is leak proof. Place the requisition form into the outside pouch of the plastic biohazard bag.
10. Place the plastic biohazard bag inside the assembled corrugated box and seal with packaging tape.
11. Complete the return mailing label and apply it to an outside of the corrugated box so that the entire label is on one face of the box. **Take samples to the post office; do not deposit them in a mailbox**. Send by U.S. Mail, not UPS.

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| **AUTHORITY of Act 368, P.A. 1978** |

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