

# CENTRAcare Laboratory Services

## MEMO

---

**TO:** CCLS Clients  
**FROM:** CentraCare Laboratory Services  
**DATE:** 6/24/16  
**SUBJECT:** Adult Lead Reference Range Change

---

There have been recent changes in the case definition for elevated blood lead levels. In 2014, the Commissioner of Health issued a finding, changing the definition of an elevated blood lead level in Minnesota Statutes 144.9501, subd. 9 to: a diagnostic lead test with a result that is  $\geq 5$  micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood (mcg/dL) in any person. In addition, the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) 2016 case definition for elevated blood lead levels uses a reference value of 5 mcg/dL for both adults and children.

**CCLS reference range changes will be made, effective June 28, 2016, to reflect a reference value of  $\leq 5$  mcg/dL for both adults and children based on these findings.**

While the OSHA standards for removing adults from work based on elevated blood lead levels have not changed, recommendations for pregnant and breastfeeding women in Minnesota can be found at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/guidelines/index.html#pregnant> and guidelines from the CSTE Occupational Subcommittee for managing exposure in adults are at <http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/OccupationalHealth/ManagementGuidelinesforAdult.pdf>.

Please contact Jerome Schlabsz, Chemistry Specialist at ext 57325 with any questions.