



ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Alexandria Health Department will offer free, walk-in lead level testing on Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4. Families of students, as well as staff, faculty, and volunteers should review the following information about testing at AHD carefully.

What: AHD will offer blood lead level testing. Children under 15 will receive a “capillary” or “finger-prick” test. Anyone over 15 years old will receive a venous test, also known as a blood draw. Tests will be done privately, and parents or guardians will be asked to accompany children and help them wash their hands before the blood lead level test.

Who: Testing is available to all students, staff, faculty, and volunteers. Alexandria Health Department will not be checking class or faculty lists.

When: Testing is available on Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4. Rather than specific appointment times, families should walk in during one of the following time frames:

- Thursday, October 3: 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Thursday, October 3: 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Friday, October 4, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Where: Testing will occur at Alexandria Health Department, located on the 4th floor at the Del Pepper Community Resource Center at 4850 Mark Center Drive. There is free parking in the garage, or you can take the free DASH bus (lines 35, 36, and 102) to the Mark Center Transit Station.

When you get here, look for signs directing you to the clinic. Please note, if you park, you’ll have to take the elevator to LR then exit and take separate elevators to the 4th floor, as shown in [this video](#).

What to Bring: All children must be accompanied by an adult. You do not need to bring insurance information or ID. If you have a provider, please bring their contact information.

AHD will have interpretation services available. There is a small vending machine in the Mark Center lobby, but feel to bring snacks and water. Also, please feel free to bring a game or book for your child as wait times may be longer while we test students, staff, faculty, and volunteers.

So that Alexandria Health Department can prepare for testing, please complete this [REDCap Form](#) before you come for testing. You will also have the option to complete the form as you wait for a test.

After Your Test:

A representative from Alexandria Health Department will call the number you provide at registration to share results. You will get a phone call regardless of your or your child’s test results. You should receive a call within a week of testing. If you don’t hear from Alexandria Health Department within a week of testing, please call 703.746.4988.

If your or your child’s test shows a blood lead level above the CDC blood lead reference value, a health department representative will outline next steps. You or your child may have to receive another blood test to confirm test results. These tests will be available through AHD or LabCorps at no cost.

You can ask more questions about next steps when you receive your test.

Tips for Parents:

If this is the first time your child gets a finger prick test, they may feel scared. You can help your child by sharing information in a calm, positive tone.

First, let your child know what to expect. Tell them their doctor needs a little bit of their blood, and that getting it is quick and easy. A health care provider will poke their finger with a small needle and collect some blood. They may feel a pinch or a poke. After, they'll get a bandage, and they will still have plenty of blood left in their body.

It can be helpful to play calm music or talk to your child about things they enjoy if they're nervous on the way to get tested.

If you have any questions, please call 703.746.4988.