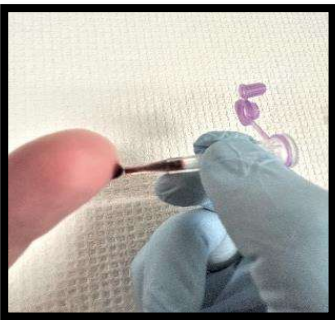




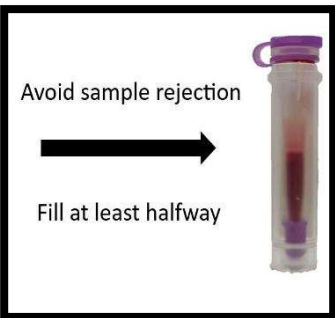
Preparation

- The collection site will be based on patient age. If the patient is under 1 year old, **wash the foot** vigorously with soap and warm water. If the patient is older, wash the **hands** instead. Warmth will help with blood flow. Let **air dry** as paper towels are a source of lead contamination.
- Just before use, set out all collection materials on a clean, **dust free** work surface.
- As needed, use form **Inorgtox 501** to request and obtain collection supplies from Vermont Department of Health Laboratory (VDHL).



Collection

- For patients under 1 year old, the blood collection puncture site will be the outer side of the heel. For those over 1 year the puncture will be either: the off-center soft side of the big toe, thumb, ring, or middle finger. Using an alcohol wipe, gently massage the site to be punctured for 30 seconds. Avoid squeezing which dilutes the sample with tissue fluid.
- The first drop of blood should not be collected and should be allowed to drop onto a clean gauze pad. If drawing for other tests, **draw for lead first** as it is the most susceptible to contamination.
 - Open both ends of the capillary tube and touch the narrow end to the forming blood drop to initiate filling.
 - Avoid contamination: **avoid touching the capillary tube to skin**. Filling too slowly? Try a different angle. Watch that sample does not spill out the wide end. The tube needs to be half full for testing.
- **Close both ends:** first the narrow end of the tube with the small purple end cap then the wide end with the attached flip cover.
 - Insert the capillary tube into the clear outer microvette tube and secure. **Tap both ends to mix** the sample thoroughly with the anticoagulant otherwise clots may form and the specimen may be rejected.



Specimen Submission

- Place the microvette tube in a biohazard bag with all label sections completed.
- Complete all sections of the Blood Lead Test Requisition Form **Inorgtox 200**. Ensure the label and form match clearly.
- Submit to the VDHL using a USPS prepaid mailer, medical courier, or in-person at the VDHL customer service window. If unable to send same day, **refrigerate** the specimen until it can be sent. Samples received greater than 8 weeks after collection will be rejected.
- Mailing Address – PO Box 1125 Burlington, VT 05402