



Date: October 16, 2023

To: Health Care Providers Caring for Infants and Children

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Important Updates for Health Care Providers serving WIC participants

This letter is to inform you that the Wisconsin Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) has opted into a new round of [USDA waivers](#), starting August 10, 2023 through September 30, 2026. The waiver allows for local WIC agencies to waive the physical presence requirement and continue to offer remote appointments while establishing a 60-day window for the collection of anthropometric measurements and a 90-day window to collect bloodwork measurements. Remote appointments have been very successful in Wisconsin and have reduced many barriers families faced participating in the Program. WIC will still offer the option for participants to be seen in person and anthropometric and bloodwork measurement to be performed by WIC staff.

For WIC participants to receive remote services, health care providers would need to supply WIC offices or participants with height and weight data taken no more than 60 days prior, and hemoglobin measurements taken within the last 12 months. WIC offices may contact providers for measurements after obtaining signed consent from participants.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, blood lead testing was severely reduced at WIC offices. Due to the continuation of remote appointments, and a new noninvasive anemia testing method in WIC, lead testing will continue to be reduced at WIC offices. If a blood lead test is completed at WIC, the result will continue to be uploaded to the Wisconsin Blood Lead Registry.

Blood lead testing at WIC offices is not required by USDA and is not a WIC allowable expense. The WIC Program's role is to assess and refer participants to health care providers for blood lead testing. WIC offices that are not providing blood lead testing will be encouraged to refer participants who have children at ages 1 and 2 for a blood lead test, as well as participants who have children between 3 and 5 years of age with no record of a previous blood lead test.

Health care providers should ensure that lead testing and other wraparound services continue to reach children and families throughout Wisconsin.

For further questions regarding these WIC updates please contact [Kari Malone](#), Wisconsin State WIC Director or for questions related to blood lead testing contact [Kim Schneider](#), Public Health Nurse with the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Thank you for helping us assure safe and adequate nutrition for our Wisconsin WIC families.