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Lead Testing in School Drinking Water

Program Review

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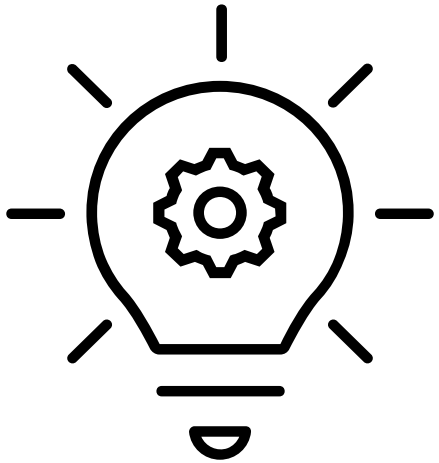
Michele Herdt PhD, MPH
Director, NYS School Environmental Health Program
Program Manager, NYS School Lead in Drinking Water Program
NYS Department of Health

School Lead in Drinking Water Sampling



Sampling Locations

Samples should be collected at all outlets used or potentially used for drinking or cooking.

“Applicable" sampling locations requiring sampling may be located anywhere on school property including external outlets (hose bibs) if the outlet may be used for drinking or cooking (including food preparation).

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Examples "Applicable" Outlets

- Bubblers/Drinking fountains
- Classroom sinks
- Classroom combination sinks and drinking fountains
- Kitchen sinks
- Kitchen kettle filler outlets
- Ice machines
- Family and consumer sciences room sinks
- Teachers' lounge sinks
- Nurse's office sinks
- Athletic field outlets
- Any other sink known to be or potentially used for consumption (e.g., used to make coffee in the office, etc.)

"First-draw" Samples

Any sample collected for compliance must be a "first-draw" sample.

First-draw sample:

- A water sample collected from a cold water outlet before any water is used from that outlet
- Water must be motionless in pipes for a minimum of 8 - 18 hours before sample collection
  - This timeframe represents water that would be consumed during normal operating conditions on any school day.
- Recommended sampling times
  - While school is in session; not during or immediately after weekends, vacations or routine flushing programs;
  - following normal operation of school (e.g., Tuesday – Saturday mornings)

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Lead Action Level

The action level for lead in school drinking water is **5 micrograms per liter** (µg/L) or parts per billion (ppb).

- Lead test results ≤ 5 ppb do *not* exceed the lead action level, and therefore do not require further testing or remediation until the next testing cycle.

- Lead test results > 5 ppb (i.e., 5.1 ppb, or greater) *exceed* the lead action level, and that outlet should be taken out of service and a remediation action plan should be implemented.

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Lead in School Drinking Water Reporting Best Practices

- All outlets that exceed the action level should be taken out of service once results are known
- **Within 10 days**
  - ✓ Report all exceedances to all staff, parents, and guardians in writing.
- **Within 6 weeks**
  - ✓ Post copies of **lab reports** of test results on the school's website. This should remain posted on the school's website.
  - ✓ Remedial action plans taken to address outlets where lead exceeded the action level should be posted on the school website.
- Schools should retain records for 10 years following document creation.

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School Lead in Drinking Water Remediation

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Corrective Actions / Remediation Options

- Permanent removal of an outlet
- Outlet replacement with “lead-free” plumbing materials
- Pipe replacement with “lead-free” plumbing materials
- Remove other sources of lead (lead pipe, lead solder joints, and brass plumbing components with “lead-free” materials)
- Flushing (systematic flushing program)
- Point of Use (POU) Filters*
- Supervision
- Engineering controls
- Education
- Signage

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Corrective Actions / Remediation Options

Signage

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Post-Remediation Testing

- Follow-up samples collected after an outlet has been remediated must also be “first-draw” samples.
  - Schools may choose to perform additional sampling (i.e., 30-second flush, etc.) to determine the contribution of lead from plumbing to guide remediation decisions.

- Post-remediation tests results should be posted on the school’s website within the same reporting timeframes/ requirements as specified for the initial sampling

Best Management Practices to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

- Aerator cleaning
- Routine flushing practices (after vacations and long weekends)
- Use only certified lead-free materials when performing plumbing work
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for water softener settings to ensure an appropriate level of hardness
- Educating staff and students of the benefits of running water at a tap briefly prior to using it for drinking or food preparation. Letting the water run for 30-60 seconds or until the water feels cold can reduce the potential levels of lead in the drinking water

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

CONTACT:

lead.in.school.drinking.water@health.ny.gov

THANK YOU!

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