



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Public Health
Office of Environmental Health Services

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January 15, 2021

Lead Testing in Drinking Water in WV Schools and Childcare Facilities

WV is now accepting applications for Schools and Childcare Facilities to be tested for Lead contamination in their drinking water.

APPLICATIONS DUE BY February 5th, 2021

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging all schools and childcare facilities to reduce children's exposure to lead from school drinking water by taking steps that include:

- testing drinking water for lead;
- disseminating results to parents, students, staff, and other interested stakeholders; and
- taking appropriate and necessary actions to correct problems.

Exposure to lead is a concern because it is a toxic heavy metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed. It has a range of adverse health effects, from lowered birth weight and slowed physical and mental development in infants, to lowered IQ levels, and impaired hearing, reduced attention span, and poor classroom performance in young children. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) in cooperation with West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) has received the federal Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIN) grant from the EPA to conduct testing for lead in the drinking water in public and private schools and childcare facilities. While it is not currently required for schools and childcare facilities to conduct lead testing in drinking water, WVDHHR and WVDE is encouraging schools and childcare facilities to take advantage of this grant program in an effort to reduce the risk of adverse health effects from lead exposure to our children.

The grant program will use EPA's 3Ts guidance as a model to:

- (1) **Communicate**, throughout the implementation of the program, the results and important lead information to the public, parents, teachers, and larger community;
- (2) **Train** on the risks of lead in drinking water and testing for lead, as well as developing key partnerships to support the program;
- (3) **Test** using appropriate testing protocols and a certified laboratory; and
- (4) **Take Action**, including the development of a plan for responding to results of testing conducted and addressing potential elevated lead where necessary.

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More information on the EPA's 3Ts guidance can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water-toolkit>.

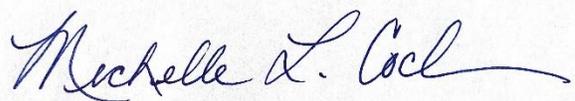
Due to funding limitations, facilities wishing to participate in the grant program will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

- facilities that serve younger children (ages 6 and under);
- facilities located in underserved and low-income communities; and
- facilities that are older and more likely to contain lead plumbing.

The participating facilities will work with WVDHHR and their contractor to develop a sampling plan, conduct sampling, disseminate results and educational materials, and implement any recommended corrective actions. The facility will be required to create the sampling plan with help from WVDHHR and the contractor, collect the sample, and send the sample to the lab. The results will be provided to each facility. All initial sampling costs will be covered by the WIIN grant and there will not be any cost to the facility for the first round of sampling. **Facilities that wish to participate in this voluntary program should complete the attached application by February 5th, 2021 and email the application to chris.r.arrington@wv.gov.** Applications will be considered after February 5th, 2021, however, due to the funding limitations, there may not be funding available after this date.

For additional information or questions about this grant opportunity, please contact Meredith Vance at Meredith.j.vance@wv.gov.

Very truly yours,



Michelle L. Cochran, Director
Office of Environmental Health Services