

# Lead Testing in School Drinking Water

All NYS public schools and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) are required to test all potable water outlets for lead and take action if lead levels exceed **5 micrograms/liter (ug/L)**

## Sampling

- Complete first draw within compliance period (1/1/23 - 12/31/25) and monitor every 3 years
- Samples must be collected at all outlets used for drinking/cooking
- Collect samples from a cold-water outlet before any water is used and that has been motionless for 8-18 hours
- **No** exemptions for “lead-free” buildings



## Response to Action Level Exceedance (over 5 ug/L)

- Immediately take outlet(s) out of service for drinking/cooking. With signage, outlet(s) can still be used for cleaning and handwashing
- Provide alternate drinking water free of charge
- Implement remediation action plan
- Conduct post-remediation testing

## Public Notification & Reporting Requirements

- Within 1 business day of receiving results: Report results over 5 ug/L to Local Health Department
- Within 10 business days of receiving results: Notify staff/parents/guardians of results over 5 ug/L in writing and report all results to NYSDOH using the electronic reporting application HERDS on the Health Commerce System. Visit [www.commerce.health.state.ny.us](http://www.commerce.health.state.ny.us)
- Within 6 weeks of receiving results: Post copies of lab reports with lead results and remediation action information on school website



## Recordkeeping

- Retain records for 10 years
- Provide copies to New York State Department of Health, New York State Education Department, and Local Health Departments upon request

## Best Practices to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

- Clean aerators
- Practice routine flushing (after vacations and long weekends)
- Use only certified lead-free plumbing materials
- Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations for water softener settings
- Educate staff/students to let water run for 30-60 seconds or until it feels cold



**Template for Recordkeeping of Outlets Tested (Applicable Outlets) that Exceeded the Lead Action Level and the Remedial Actions that were/are implemented.**

Outlets that Exceeded the Lead Action Level and the Remedial Actions that were/are implemented.		Outlets Exceeding the Lead Action Level (5 micrograms per liter)														
Laboratory ID	Outlet Location (or Sample ID)	Outlet Type <sup>1</sup>	Sample Results		Remedial Actions (Please check all that apply)								Notes/Comments			
			Initial (ppb)	Post Remediation	Outlet or Plumbing Replacement <sup>2</sup>	Permanent Removal <sup>3</sup>	Filter Installed and Maintained	Signage	Supervision	Continuing Education	Flushing	Engineering Controls <sup>4</sup>				

<sup>1</sup> Outlet type may include drinking fountain/bubbler, kitchen outlets, handwashing outlets, or other.  
<sup>2</sup> Outlet or Plumbing Replacement: Would include replacing existing fixtures or plumbing components with options that meet the 2014 Safe Drinking Water Act 1417 (a) (4) definition of lead-free (not containing more than 0.2 percent lead when used with respect to solder and flux; and not more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures)  
<sup>3</sup> Removing the fixture and/or capping the supply line before the fixture  
<sup>4</sup> Engineering controls may include locked doors, keys to operate an outside hose bib, or other.