

Do you need to get the lead out?

Here are some frequently asked questions about testing your facility's drinking water for lead:



- **Who collects the samples?** It's not specified who should collect the sample(s). Samples may be collected by the school/daycare staff or a third-party contractor and submitted to the lab for analysis. Your choice may be based on your budget. The EPA's "**3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools**" is a great reference tool.
- **Where should I collect the drinking water samples?** All sources of (non-bottled) potable water that may be ingested by children and/or used in food preparation should be tested. This includes locations such as water fountains, kitchen taps/faucets, and classroom sinks. Restroom sinks and janitorial sinks are not required sampling points. (See the **Public Act 099-0922** – page 16/17)
- **How many samples should I collect?** Two samples per location should be collected – 1st draw after water is standing in the plumbing for 8-18 hours and 2nd draw after a 30-second flush following the 1st draw sample collection. (See the **Public Act 099-0922** – page 17)
- **What type of container is required?** Plastic 250mL sample containers will be provided by the lab for sample collection. Download a copy of the **sample request kit form from our website**.
- **How do I identify my samples?** All samples must be properly labeled such that the locations are easy to identify; the date and time of collection must also be included. A master sampling plan will help you easily label the samples (Sample 001 corresponds to Kitchen Sink-First Draw). Download an **example Sample ID spreadsheet** and **CoC completion guide** from our website.
- **How do I submit samples for analysis?** Upon collection, samples and accompanying documentation (chain of custody) may be submitted to the lab in person or via common carrier/shipping services. Shipping may be the most economical choice. Download a copy of our **Step by Step Sampling Guide** from our website.
- **What do I do once I get my report?** Contact the lab with any questions regarding the report. Submit the report to the IL Department of Public Health within 7 days of receipt. (See the **Public Act 099-0922** – page 17/18)
- **Do I need to provide the report to parents?** In short, yes, notification is required. Review the law for how/when to report to parents. (See the **Public Act 099-0922** – page 18)
- **What do I do if my sample results are over the limit in the law?** The Department of Public Health will provide guidance on mitigation requirements. (See the **Public Act 099-0922** – page 20)
- **Why is lead in drinking water a priority?** Potential health affects in children of school-age range from reduced IQ to hyperactivity and impaired growth. See the EPA's "**3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools**" for more information.

Review Teklab's step by step guide (available at <http://www.teklabinc.com>) to getting started and working through the process of having your facility's drinking water tested for lead.