



Lead Screening in School and Childcare Drinking Water

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), first passed in 1991, requires lead testing in public drinking water, as well as treatment practices for prevention. Since then, it has been revised to expand requirements to help screen for lead in school drinking water, in addition to other requirements.

The revised Lead and Copper Rule, which went into effect in December 2021, includes the following requirements that may impact elementary school and childcare facilities who are on public water supply:

- Public water utilities will be required to test all elementary schools and licensed childcare facilities on their distribution line once within a five-year period.
- Public water utilities should perform additional school testing, where requested.
- Results of all sampling would be provided to tested school and childcare facilities. Where high lead levels are noted (greater than 10 ppb), education resources (which could include literature, guidance, or other) will be shared to the schools or childcare facilities.

More information on the EPA Revised Lead and Copper Rule can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule>.

Schools or childcare facilities who are on their own drinking water source (i.e. a private well) are not required to be tested by public utilities through the revised Lead and Copper Rule. To test for lead in drinking water, these schools or childcare facilities should work with a certified commercial laboratory or the Department of Health and Environmental Control to have their water tested.

Schools can use the additional guidance in this series to help prevent the occurrence of lead in their school or childcare drinking water, or take remediation steps, as necessary.