



LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

GENERAL INFORMATION

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is leading the voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water (LWSC) Program to provide safe drinking water for children and staff throughout the state of New Mexico.

History

Lead contamination in drinking water is a known hazard. In 2021, EPA announced the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, which aim to remove lead from all public drinking water service lines, including in schools and childcare facilities.

While newer building are unlikely to have lead service lines, lead fixtures, solder, and pipes could be cause for contamination. To protect children from lead exposure, the LWSC program assists facilities with free sampling and testing. Based on the results, NMED will also provide guidance and assistance to reduce or eliminate lead found in a facility's drinking water.

Application Process

Facility administrators can sign-up their school or childcare facility, and parents or staff can nominate a facility on the NMED LWSC website. Once NMED receives an application or nomination, staff will review the information and contact facility administration to coordinate the program process.



How to Apply or Nominate a Facility

Visit our website to complete an application or nomination form, or email us at LWSC@env.nm.gov



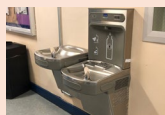
Who is Eligible?

ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC/PRIVATE CHILDCARE FACILITIES IN NEW MEXICO ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LWSC PROGRAM.

Program Process

Step 1: Outlet Inventory

Our team will visit your facility to, or train facility staff to, identify all drinking water outlets to be tested at the facility



Step 2: Sample Collection

Our team, or trained facility staff, will conduct water sampling at the facility at no cost. Sampling will take place early in the morning before water is used for best results. All samples will be sent to an accredited laboratory for analysis.



All sampling results will be sent to the participating facility and will also be posted on NMED's LWSC website. In cases of elevated lead levels, facility administrators will be notified immediately. They will then work with our team to create a remediation and/or replacement plan as appropriate for their facility.

Step 3: Remediation

NMED's team will provide funding and technical assistance for remediation that may include fixture replacement, filter addition, or plumbing replacement.



Step 4: Resampling

Our team, or trained facility staff, will conduct follow-up water sampling at the facility to ensure remedial actions are effective. Sampling will take place early in the morning before water is used for best results.



All samples will be sent to an accredited laboratory for analysis. All sampling results will be sent to the participating facility and will also be posted on NMED's LWSC website.