



## LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

# PRINCIPAL'S FACT SHEET

Thank you for participating in the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Lead Testing in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water (LWSC) program, an essential step in helping ensure our community health. This fact sheet will help you better understand the program and your role, and prepare you for questions from teachers, parents, and community members.

### Your Role in the Program

The LWSC program is NMED's voluntary program using the EPA's 3Ts program framework. This program assist schools and childcare facilities in removing lead from drinking water. Public schools and childcare facilities are not legally required to test for lead; EPA is working to pass new regulations to make this a requirement. The LWSC program provides free sampling, laboratory testing, and remediation assistance to replace fixtures that contain lead. All sampling results will be available on NMED's public website. You and your staff will work with an NMED representative to schedule the following steps:



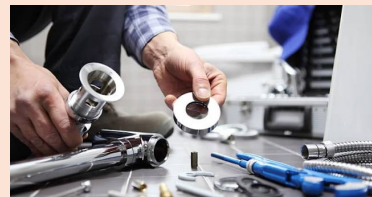
#### Step 1:

Inventory all drinking water outlets at the facility



#### Step 2:

Collect water samples before school starts



#### Step 3:

Remediate and/or replace fixtures containing lead



#### Step 4:

Resample drinking water outlets as needed

If sampling results show elevated lead levels, short-term safety measures such as shutting off outlets, placing "do not drink" signs, flushing taps, or providing bottled water should be taken. Schools and childcare facilities can also take long-term safety steps, including outlet replacement, filter installation, and pipe replacement.

**There is no safe level of lead and children are especially susceptible to exposure effects.**

Contact NMED  
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