LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS AND RESULTS

The only way to know if there is lead in your drinking water is to TEST. Lead is colorless, odorless- and harmful to human health. NMED's Lead Testing in Schools and Childcare Facilities program is a voluntary program for schools and childcare facilities to receive assistance in reducing lead in their drinking water to maintain a healthy learning environment for New Mexico's students.

1. Outlet Inventory

Before a sampling event can take place, an NMED representative meets with school officials to create an 'outlet inventory' of all drinking outlets in a facility. This step is important because it allows our staff a chance to create maps, investigate sources of drinking water, and create an accurate sampling plan to send to our laboratory.

NMED has created codes for types of drinking water outlets often encountered in schools.

A

B

Examples: Outlet A would be recorded as WC (Water Cooler)
Outlet B would be recorded as WF (Water Fountain)

Outlet Type Codes

BF – Bathroom Faucet
CF – Classroom Faucet
IM – Ice Machine
KF – Kitchen Faucet
NS – Nurse's Office Sink
OF – Outdoor Faucet
WC – Water Cooler
WF –Water Fountain

Sample Type Codes

1 – First Draw Sample
2 – Flush Sample

Sample ID Examples

Sample ID	Building	Floor	Room	Outlet Type	Sample Type
1-2-110-CF11-1	1	2	110	CF	1
1-2-110-CF11-2	1	2	110	CF	2
3-1-105-KF4-1	3	1	321	KF	1
3-1-105-KF4-2	3	1	321	KF	2
1-1-Hall-WF9-1	1	1	Hall	WF	1
1-1-Hall-WF9-2	1	1	Hall	WF	2

1. The first sample, **1-2-210-CF11**, is in Building 1, on the second floor, in Room 210, and was collected from a classroom faucet.

2. The second sample, **3-1-105-KF4**, is in Building 3, on the first floor, in Room 105, and was collected from a kitchen faucet.

3. The third sample, **1-1-Hall-WF9**, is in Building 1, on the first floor, in the Hallway, and was collected from a water fountain.

Below is an example of an outlet inventory. We utilize this resource to be better able to communicate with schools and our laboratory about samples, results, and suggested remediation actions.

Name of School/Facility: Example Elementary **School District or Childcare Facility City:** Example District

Order #	Building #	Floor #	Room #	Common Room Name/ Description	Outlet Type Code	Sample Location ID	Brand/Model of Outlet (if available)	Comments	Is a filter in use at this outlet? (Y/N)*	*If Yes, complete the columns below			
										Filter Brand and Model	Date of last filter replacement	Filter Replacement Frequency	Is Filter NSF Certified for Lead Reduction? (Y/N)
1	1	2	110	2nd Grade Classroom	CF	1-2-110-CF11	Elkay EZS8L	Rear Corner	Y	Aqua-Pure 3MFF101	1/2/2025	6 months	Y
2	3	1	321	Cafeteria Kitchen	KF	3-1-105-KF4	American Standard 4THR1	Middle faucet in 3 basin sink	N				
3	1	1	Hall	First Grade Hallway	WF	1-1-Hall-WF9	Elkay EZH2O	Between Rooms 107 and 109	N				
4	2	1	204	Boys Bathroom	BF	2-1-204-BF6	American Standard 1340	Left Sink	N				

2. Sampling Events

After scheduling a sampling event with facility staff, our program coordinators will send the completed 'outlet inventory' document to our laboratory staff. They will then prepare a sampling kit. Each sampling kit comes with two (250 ml) bottles for each outlet to be tested and Sample ID labels for each bottle.

Sample Collection

Two (2) samples will be collected at each outlet: a First Draw Sample, and a Flush sample. If lead is found in either sample, the two samples will help us determine the possible sources of contamination (i.e. fixture issue, interior plumbing issue, etc.)

First Draw Sample

Sample collected before school starts after water has sat in pipe for 8-18 hours.

Flush

Water is flushed from fixture continuously for 30 seconds.

Flush Sample

Second sample collected after the water is flushed.

3. Results

After receiving the samples, the NM state laboratory analyzes them and generates a report. Our program staff then organizes this report to make the data more digestible. We organize sample results into three categories: Non-Detect (<1.0 µg/L), Low Detection (1.0 – 14.9 µg/L), and High Detection (≥15.0 µg/L).

Below is an example of a results report for a location where samples were collected, remedial action was taken, then samples were collected again to verify the effectiveness of remedial actions (note: micrograms per liter (µg/L) are also known as parts per billion (ppb)).

Sample ID	Description	Initial Sampling Results		Remedial Action	Post Remedial Sampling Results	
		First Draw Sample, (µg/L)	Flush Sample, (µg/L)		First Draw Sample, (µg/L)	Flush Sample, (µg/L)
Non-Detect (<1.0 µg/L)						
1-2-110-CF11	Classroom Faucet 2nd Grade Classroom 110	<1.0	<1.0	N/A		
Low Detection (1.0 – 14.9 µg/L)						
3-1-105-KF4	Middle faucet in Cafeteria 3-Basin Sink	2.8	<1.0	Filter Added	<1.0	<1.0
High Detection (≥15.0 µg/L)						
1-1-Hall-WF9	Hallway fountain between Rms 107 and 109	21.4	15.7	Replaced Outlet	<1.0	<1.0

What do these numbers mean?

1.0 µg/L — **15.0 µg/L**

< 1.0 µg/L

Lead was not detected in the sample above the minimum detection limit of 1.0 µg/L.

No action is recommended for drinking water outlets where both samples show a non-detected value.

1.0 – 14.9 µg/L

Lead was detected in the sample.

Potential remedial actions to reduce the amount of lead include routine flushing, addition of an NSF-certified lead reduction filter, and/or replacement of the drinking water outlet.

≥ 15.0 µg/L

Lead was detected in the sample at a concentration greater than the EPA Action Level.

Drinking water outlets with these high concentrations of lead should be immediately made inaccessible until replacement and resampling has been completed.

NMED will collect a sample for analysis following remediation to confirm success.

4. Remediation

After receiving results from our laboratory, NMED staff and/or contractors will communicate with facility staff to create a remediation plan. Each location is unique, and remediation plans can range from no recommended action at this time to replacing faucets to larger-scale interior plumbing replacements. Following completion of remedial actions, NMED will resample the drinking water outlet location to confirm that the actions were successful at reducing lead levels.

For more information, please visit the NMED LWSC program website at www.env.nm.gov/LWSC