



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



June 2, 2016

Notice to Drinking Water Industry Stakeholders Regarding the Potential Occurrence of Lead in School Drinking Water

The purpose of this notice is to make you aware of a letter recently issued by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau to New Hampshire schools about the potential occurrence of lead in school drinking water due to the leaching of lead from components of older service connections and internal plumbing and fixtures, such as faucets, bubblers, and coolers that may contain lead. In the coming weeks, NHDES will also issue recommendations to licensed child care programs on this matter. You have been identified as having an interest in this topic as it relates to drinking water testing and safety.

To determine whether lead in school drinking water is a problem, NHDES has recommended that all schools in the state adopt the USEPA's "3Ts (Training, Testing, and Telling) Program for Schools," which was specifically developed to help schools implement simple strategies to assess and reduce lead in their drinking water. Specifically, this program provides guidance to schools on gathering information about past testing efforts, identifying potential sources of lead in their plumbing, developing and carrying out a water testing plan, fixing problems when elevated lead levels are found, and communicating with their school and parent community about their lead control program.

In settings where schools determine third-party professional services are needed, NHDES has recommended schools retain a NH-licensed plumber or NH-certified drinking water system operator.

When water samples are collected, NHDES has informed schools that sample analysis should be performed by a laboratory accredited in NH for the analysis of lead in drinking water. Please note per the 3Ts guidance, **the recommended sample volume is 250 milliliters (mL) not one (1) liter as required for public water suppliers for compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.** This smaller sample is more effective at identifying the sources of lead at a drinking water outlet because it represents a smaller section of plumbing, and is also more representative of water per serving that would be consumed by a child. **NHDES recommends laboratories have 250 mL, wide-mouth sample bottles available in the event they are contacted by schools and child care programs about sampling.** NHDES has requested schools coordinate with their water supplier on any water testing efforts; however, please note that **water samples collected at schools should be submitted to the laboratory as private water samples, unless the public water system is involved and submits them as public water system samples.**

A copy of the above-referenced letter, 3Ts guidance, and additional resources are available on NHDES' website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/lead-drinking-water.htm>.

This notice was sent to the following programs/organizations with a request for distribution:

New Hampshire Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NH ELAP); Laboratory Association of New Hampshire (LANH)
NHDES Water Works Operator Certification Program; New Hampshire Water Works Association (NHWWA); Granite State Rural Water Association (GSRWA); RCAP Solutions
NH Mechanical Safety and Licensing Board; Plumbers, Fuel Gas Fitters and HVAC Association of New Hampshire (PGFHVAC)

DES Web Site: www.des.nh.gov

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