



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



July 8, 2016

**Notice to Educational and Public Health Stakeholders Regarding the
Potential Occurrence of Lead in Drinking Water**

The purpose of this notice is to make you aware of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau's recent recommendations to New Hampshire schools and licensed child care programs about the potential occurrence of lead in drinking water. You have been identified as having an interest in this topic as it relates to public health, children's health, and health and safety in the learning environment.

Recent events in cities across the United States have shown that lead in drinking water remains an ongoing public health challenge and important concern for children's health. Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. There is no known safe level of lead exposure for children. Babies and children under the age of 6 are especially vulnerable to the effects of lead exposure. Children who are exposed to lead could experience long-term problems with physical and mental growth and development, including slowed body growth, kidney problems, hearing problems, seizures, brain damage, lower IQ level, learning delays, reduced attention span, and behavior problems. Effects of lead exposure can be managed, but they cannot be remedied.

In New Hampshire, public water systems and NHDES work diligently to ensure that drinking water provided to the public is tested and safe and does not contain elevated lead levels. Public water systems, however, are not required to test the tap water of every customer and lead is most likely to leach into drinking water from components of older service connections and internal plumbing and fixtures, such as faucets, bubblers, and coolers that may contain lead. As such, NHDES is encouraging all schools and child care programs to test water from regularly used taps for lead. To assist in this matter, NHDES has recommended adoption of the USEPA's "3Ts (Training, Testing, and Telling) Program," which was specifically developed to help schools and child care programs implement simple strategies to assess and reduce lead in their drinking water. In settings where third-party professional services are needed, NHDES has recommended retaining a NH-licensed plumber or NH-certified drinking water system operator. When water samples are collected, sample analysis should be performed by a laboratory accredited in NH for the analysis of lead in drinking water.

Copies of NHDES' communication to schools and child care programs, guidance materials, 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:

NH School Administrators Association (NHSAA); NH Association of School Principals (NHASP); NH State Teachers Association (NEANH); NH School Boards Association (NHSBA); Nonpublic School Advisory Council; NH Association of School Business Officials (NHASBO); NH School Nurses' Association (NHSNA)

NH Association for the Education of Young Children (NHAEYC)

NH Pediatric Society (NHPS); NH Public Health Association (NHPHA); Northern New England Poison Center (NNEPC); NHDHHS Health Officer Liaison (HOL) Unit; Northern New England chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI); NH Building Officials Association (NHBOA); NH Health Officers Association (NHHOA)

DES Web Site: www.des.nh.gov

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095
Telephone: (603) 271-2513 Fax: (603) 271-5171 TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964