[Date]

AESHP 2024

Remedial Action Plan: Lead in School Drinking Water

SAUQUOIT VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Introduction**

The purpose of the Lead Testing in School Drinking Water regulation, 10 NYCRR Subpart 67-4, is to ensure that drinking water in schools is safe and free of lead contamination. Children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead. High lead levels in children can bring lifelong problems including reduced cognitive function, learning disabilities, and aggressive behavior. As such, New York State schools are required to sample their water outlets designated for drinking and cooking at least once every three years.

This Remedial Action Plan is a detailed summary of the actions implemented to mitigate sources of lead that exceeded the action level and to minimize exposure to lead in drinking water at school. The Remedial Action Plan should be updated when new test results become available, additional remediation is planned or completed, engineering controls are modified, or when other related actions occur.

The Remedial Action Plan is posted on the district’s website as required, should be retained in a central repository at the school, and made available for review upon request.

**Applicable vs. Non-Applicable Outlets**

Superintendents, or their designees, have the responsibility to identify which outlets meet the regulation requirements for testing, these are the “Applicable outlets”. "Non-applicable outlets" are those outlets not used, or not potentially used, for drinking or cooking. Non-applicable outlets must be identified and the school must develop a plan that details how those outlets will not be accessed and/or utilized for drinking or cooking purposes.

Although the Superintendent, or their designee, has the responsibility to make the individual outlet determinations, the NYS DOH has provided general examples of both Applicable and Non-applicable outlets.

Examples of "Applicable” Outlets

|  |  |
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| * Bubblers/drinking fountains * Classroom sinks * Classroom combination sinks and drinking fountains * Kitchen sinks * Kitchen kettle filler outlets * Ice machines | * Family and consumer sciences room sinks * Teachers’ lounge sinks * Nurse’s office sinks * Athletic field outlets * Any other sink known to be or potentially used for consumption (e.g., used to make coffee in the office, etc.) |

Examples of Possible “Non-Applicable” Outlets

In general, any outlet in a room or office within a school that is not used by students (pre-kindergarten through grade 12) *and* does not provide water for drinking or cooking does not require sampling.

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| * **Dishwashing sinks:** If an outlet is designated for dish washing only and involves no opportunity for drinking or cooking (including food preparation), the outlet does not require sampling. * **Bus garage:** Outlets in bus garage buildings do not require sampling for lead unless the building is occupied by students (e.g., BOCES classes). * **Point of entry:** Samples from the point of entry are not required under Subpart 67-4. Point of entry is the location where water enters the building from the distribution system of a public water system. * **Science/Art sinks:** Typically, classrooms in these settings prohibit eating and/or drinking. The school Superintendent has the authority to determine whether these outlets may be used for drinking or cooking and whether they require sampling. | * **Classroom sinks:** If the outlet is used for drinking and/or cooking, it must be sampled. However, if the school has controls in place to prevent the consumption of water, these outlets may be excluded from sampling * **Lavatory Sinks:** Toilet rooms and bathrooms are reflected in various code provisions that prohibit the installation of drinking facilities, drinking fountains, water coolers, and water dispensers within toilet rooms and bathrooms. No one should consume food or beverage in or from a lavatory. Provide signs and education. * **Tempered water outlets:** The EPA and NYS DOH recommend that hot or tempered water not be used for drinking or cooking as hot or warm water increases the leaching of lead into the water. As such, tempered water outlets do not require sampling. However, all tempered water outlets should be clearly posted with signs and education should be provided. * **Custodial closet outlets:** If the outlet is only used for custodial purposes and not for drinking, then the outlet does not need to be sampled. |

**Action Level**

The action level for lead in school drinking water is 5 micrograms per liter (mcg/L) or parts per billion (ppb), which is also equivalent to 0.005 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm). If the lead test result for an outlet exceeds the action level, the school must take action to ensure the outlet is not used for cooking or drinking prior to being properly remediated and post-remediation test results indicate the lead levels are at or below the action level.

If necessary, the school must provide building occupants with an adequate supply of water free of charge for drinking and cooking until post-remediation lead test results are at or below the action level.

**Remediation**

Outlets that exceed the action level must undergo remediation and post-remediation testing prior to being used for cooking or drinking again. Non-applicable outlets must also undergo a remedial action control to prevent them from being used for cooking or drinking.

Control actions and remediation options for outlets include:

* Permanent removal of an outlet
* Outlet replacement with “lead-free” plumbing materials
* Pipe replacement with “lead-free” plumbing materials
* Remove other sources of lead (lead pipe, lead solder joints, and brass plumbing components with “lead-free” materials)
* Flushing (systematic flushing program)
* Installation and Maintenance of Point of Use (POU) Filters
* Supervision of Outlet, e.g., Science and Art Classroom Sinks
* Engineering controls including ensuring locked doors or controlled access
* Signage indicating the outlet should not be used for drinking, as appropriate
* Education to reinforce the use of other remediation actions including Supervision, Engineering Controls and Signage.

Note, if an outlet test result exceeds the action level it may still be used for cleaning and handwashing purposes. Appropriate signage must be placed at the outlet clearly indicating that it is not to be used for drinking or cooking and follow up with education of students, parents, teachers and staff.

The Non-applicable outlets and their remedial action control can be found in Attachment C. The designated Applicable outlets, their test results and any remedial action responses can be found in Attachment B.

**Reporting Requirements for All Test Results**

There are multiple requirements for communication of test results.

* Within 1 business day of receipt of laboratory reports, report any action level exceedances to the local health department.
* Within 10 business days of receipt of laboratory reports;
  + Report any action level exceedances to all staff and persons in parental relation to students in writing. The notification shall be in physical written form and distributed to all staff and persons in parental relation to the student. A Template Letter for communicating the exceedances can be found in Attachment A. Note, posting the information on the school website or through social media does not constitute physical written notification.
  + Report current test results (including post-remediation results) and other required information in the NYS DOH’s electronic reporting application, Health Commerce System (HCS) Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS).
* Within 6 weeks of receipt of laboratory reports, post numeric test results of all lead testing, including laboratory reports and which remedial actions were taken, on the school’s website. The posting shall be readily visible on the school’s website and remain posted for the duration of the compliance period. A template form for posting lab results and remedial actions taken can be found in Attachment B which shall be posted along with laboratory results on the district’s website.

Note, the template and examples provided in the attachments are not specifically required and may be adapted to suit the needs of the school however there are specific details which must be included in the records and notifications, review 10 CRR Subpart 67-4 for details.

**Recordkeeping Requirements**

The school must retain all records of lead test results, remediation actions, and historical determinations that a building is lead-free (if applicable) for ten years following the creation of such documentation, in accordance with Subpart 67-4. Copies of such documentation shall be available to provide immediately to the NYS DOH, NYS Education Department, and applicable local health department, upon request.

It is recommended that all such records be kept on-site in a centrally accessible repository, for each school. The following are examples of those records:

* Names and contact information for all the program partners
* Map or diagram of the building identifying all outlets
* Sampling plan and/or outlet inventory
* Copies of laboratory reports
* Copies of all communication records with staff and persons in parental relation to students
* Remedial Action Plan

**Attachment A**

**Template Parent Letter**

# A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

*SAUQUOIT VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL*

# Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

*5/24/24*

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter (µg/L), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

# What is “first draw” testing of school drinking water for lead?

The “on-again, off-again” nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This “first draw” sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

# What are the results of the first draw testing?

*Provide information/status of what has been done to date, including, but not exclusive of Sampling locations (e.g., building names, room numbers) and dates, and laboratory results.*

*Example:*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Samples Collected on *mm/dd/yyyy*** | | | | |
| **Floor** | **Function / Space** | **Room** | **Fixture Type** | **Sample Results** |
| *01* | *Hallway* | *Near 107* | *Drinking Fountain* | *2 ppb* |
| *01* | *Classroom* | *107* | *Cold Water Faucet 1* | *15 ppb* |
| *02* | *Girls Lavatory* | *207* | *Cold Water Faucet 3* | *8 ppb* |

# What is being done in response to the results?

*Insert information on remedial actions completed/planned, and retesting and future testing plans (e.g., next event). If appropriate, add the following language:*

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) were removed from service unless an outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet

indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

# What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposure as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

# What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building’s plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

**Should your child be tested for lead?**

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors, including but not limited to, a child’s age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil, and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child’s blood lead level, parents should discuss their child’s health history with their child’s physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

# Additional Resources

**For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results,** contact *SCOTT GILLETTE at (315) 983-1694,* or go to our school website.

## For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm>

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

## For information about NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, go to: <http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

## For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child’s risk of exposure to lead, see “What Your Child’s Blood Lead Test Means”:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (English)

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education_materials/index.htm> (available in ten languages).

**Attachment B**

**Applicable Outlet**

**Results and Remediation Actions**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Outlets that Exceeded the Lead Action Level and the Remedial Actions that were/are Implemented (5 micrograms per liter or parts per billion)**  **DISTRICT: SCHOOL:** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Laboratory ID | Outlet Location (or Sample ID) | Outlet Type | Sample Results | | Remedial Actions (Please check all that apply) | | | | | | | | |
| Initial (ppb) | Post Remediation | Outlet or Plumbing Replacement | Permanent Removal | Filter Installed and Maintained | Signage | Supervision | Continuing Education | Flushing | Engineering Controls | Notes/Comments |
| 70298626001 | Teacher Lounge MS 19C | Sink | 5.1 |  | ☐ | ☐ | X | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Lead filter installed will retest |
| 70298626007 | Tech room MS 29B | Sink | 46.9 |  | ☐ | ☐ |  | X | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Signage installed |
| 70298626010 | Dish washing sink MS 31 C3 | sink | 12.8 |  | ☐ | ☐ |  | X | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Signage installed Filter to be installed |
| 70298626011 | Dish washing sink MS 31 C4 | sink | 5.5 |  | ☐ | ☐ |  | X | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Signage installed Filter to be installed |
| 70298626017 | Room 115 sink MS 9 B1 | sink | 14.7 |  | ☐ | ☐ | X | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Filter installed |
| 70298626018 | Room 115 sink MS B2 | Bubbler | 12.4 |  | ☐ | ☐ | X | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Filter installed |
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**Attachment C**

**Non-Applicable Outlet**

**Remedial Action Control**

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| **Outlets Designated Non-Applicable (Not Used for Cooking or Drinking)**  **DISTRICT: SCHOOL:** | | | | | | | |
| Outlet Location  (or ID) | Outlet Type | Remedial Actions to Prevent Use as Cooking or Drinking  (Please check all that apply) | | | | | |
| Permanent Removal | Signage | Supervision | Continuing Education | Engineering Controls | Notes/Comments |
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