

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Effective January 17, 2020, all schools accredited by the Montana Board of Public Education will be required to sample all drinking water fountains and kitchen fixtures that can be used for human consumption. All other potential human consumption fixtures (HCF) must be sampled, unless the school or school district submits a testing plan to the DEQ to test a representative sample of potential HCFs in the school. Schools will have until December 31, 2021 to complete the initial sampling.
2. Create and maintain a simple schematic and inventory of plumbing materials, all fixtures and those that are used for human consumption. Schools are required to prepare a simple sketch or drawing (also could be aerial photo) showing the locations of all their water fixtures. Schools will also prepare a plumbing inventory including list of all fixtures, plumbing types, maintenance or repair history and general school information. The inventory information will be used to create a sampling plan.
3. Create and implement a water flushing plan. Schools will be required to flush their water systems anytime a school has been inactive for greater than 3 days. Water flushing is an effective way for schools to improve their water quality. It removes stagnant water from pipes and fixtures that may contain higher concentrations of Lead. A water flushing plan/procedure is required to be submitted to the DEQ by September 1, 2021.
4. Follow-up actions will be required depending on the results of the sampling. Results will be placed into one of three bins (categories).
 - Bin 1 – Lead concentrations greater than 15.0 micrograms per Liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) – fixture must be immediately removed from service.
 - Bin 2 – Lead concentrations greater than 5.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$ less than 15.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$ – fixture must be fixed, replaced or removed from service.
 - Bin 3 – Lead concentrations less than 5.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$ – no action is required. Once remedial activities are completed, a follow-up sample is required from each fixture that had a remedial action. The follow-up sample is required before that fixture can be put back in service to confirm that lead concentrations are less than 5.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$. A second follow-up sample is required one year following completion of the remedial action.
5. Routine sampling required following the initial sampling event. Once all fixtures are in Bin 3, the school must sample once every 3 calendar years to confirm HCFs continue to deliver water below 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Schools may submit a waiver to DEQ in writing using a form approved by the department. Sampling frequency may be adjusted by the DEQ based on test results and inventory.
6. Schools are required to make test results publicly available. Schools are encouraged to inform parents and staff about your school's lead sampling program. Templates are available for letters to parents, informational posters, and informational post cards. Schools will be required to make the results easily available accessible to parents and staff. Sample results with remediation status will be publicly available on the DEQ website.