

Statewide plan for reducing student exposure to lead in drinking water: Information for schools and childcare facilities

In April 2016, The Governor directed the OHA and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to review existing programs and create a plan to address the problem of lead in school water. In response, OHA and ODE will:

- Recommend all school districts and childcare facilities to test for lead in buildings.
- Recommend schools and childcare facilities to use accredited drinking water testing labs to process water samples for lead.
- Develop a database and method for transferring lead test records from accredited labs to OHA as a reportable test result.
- Provide drinking water technical expertise from OHA to schools and childcare facilities as needed to support them as they test water in their buildings.

Actions schools and childcare facilities can take

The key steps that need to be taken by school districts and early learning environments include:

1. **Identify sources of lead:** Schools and childcare facilities should test all taps used for drinking or food preparation in the building to identify any lead problems. Follow the [Environmental Protection Agency's 3 T's Revised Technical Guidance](#) to ensure that samples for lead are collected properly and from the right places. Use an [OHA-accredited drinking water laboratory](#) to analyze samples for lead.
2. **Stop access:** Prevent access to water taps that have more than 20 parts per billion (ppb) of lead. This should include shutting off taps, covering water fountains, and providing bottled water to students and staff members.
3. **Communicate:** Make results from tests for lead in water available to students, families, and the community as quickly as possible.
4. **Mitigate and correct:** Replace the sources of lead in building plumbing. Again, EPA 3T's Guidance should be followed.

Resources for schools and child care facilities

Environmental Protection Agency's 3 T's Revised Technical Guidance:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf

List of OHA-accredited drinking water laboratories:

<https://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Monitoring/Pages/labs.aspx>

For advice and consultation on how test for lead in drinking water, please contact: OHA Drinking Water Services at (971-673-0405).