



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

DATE: JULY 9, 2018  
 TO: NH Schools and Licensed Childcare Facilities  
 FROM: Sarah Pillsbury, P.G., Administrator  
 NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau  
 RE: **Testing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Daycares  
 SB247 Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning**

NHDES issued recommendations for voluntary testing of lead in drinking water at all schools and daycares in Spring 2016, following increased awareness of lead toxicity to children from the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. On February 8, 2018, Governor Sununu signed Senate Bill 247 Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning. This law requires, among other actions, that all schools and licensed childcare facilities test lead in drinking water at all locations where water is available for consumption by children. *The first round of testing is required to be completed by July 1, 2019, and every 5 years thereafter, until at least 3 rounds are below the standard.* Such testing completed from 2016 forward is acceptable for the first round of sampling.

NHDES has been working with the NH Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to provide guidance for schools and childcare facilities to perform this testing. Our state has a wide network of Certified Contract Water Operators (see enclosed [Factsheet DWGB 7-2](#)), as well as experienced municipal water professionals that may be available to assist your staff in developing your testing program. Guidelines to proceed are as follows:

**1. Make a list of all faucets where water is available for consumption by children**

Use a table such as the following for tracking your sample results and followup actions.

Sample ID	Description	Sample Date	Stagnant Lead, ppb	Followup Actions	Completion Date
01	West Wing Bubbler				
02	Nurses Office Sink				
03	Kitchen Food Prep Sink				
04	Infant Room Sink				

**2. Sampling and Communications**

In coordination with a [NH certified laboratory](#) (enclosed list), obtain 1-liter, wide-mouth sample bottles for the identified testing locations. Samples must be “first flush” or stagnant at least 6 hours prior to collection. Generally, it works best to collect samples first thing in the morning. Upon receipt of sample results, post them to your website and/or send letters to parents and guardians informing of the results and next steps. From today onward and in conformance with SB247, **notification of results to parents and guardians should be by 5 business days of receipt from the lab.** In addition, the certified laboratories may report electronically to NHDES for compliance with Step 3 (i.e., sample results that prompt remedial action).

**3. Remediation**

Any locations showing 15 ppb (0.015 mg/L) or higher must be remediated. **Effective immediately, remediation plans shall be submitted to NHDES and implemented by 30 days of the notification of test results to parents / guardians or as soon as practicable.**

NHDES DWGB

Guidelines for Testing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Daycares  
July 9, 2018; Page 2 of 2

Alternate water must be provided until these measures are completed and retested. Remediation will commonly consist of replacing offending fixtures for new "low-lead" faucets, flushing aggressively, and retesting. However, additional steps may be required such as installation of NSF 53 Certified Lead Filters, other water treatment, or plumbing replacements where lead solder is still present. Remediation plans shall be submitted via email, fax or standard mail to:

NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau  
Lead and Copper Program  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95,  
Concord, NH 03302-0095  
Tel 603-271-2513; Fax 603-271-5171; [DWGBInfo@des.nh.gov](mailto:DWGBInfo@des.nh.gov)

We ask that you proceed with this testing as soon as possible to allow the most flexibility in laboratory scheduling and to ensure all remediation actions may be completed prior to the start of the new school year. Questions may be directed to 603-271-2513 and [DWGBInfo@des.nh.gov](mailto:DWGBInfo@des.nh.gov). Additional guidance and copy of this letter may be found at [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov), A to Z Topics, "Lead in Drinking Water".

Sincerely yours,



Sarah Pillsbury, P.G.  
Administrator  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau

cc. Public Water System Certified Water Operators

Enclosures

- Accredited Labs Providing Well Water Quality Testing Services
- DES Factsheet DWGB 7-2 Certified Contract Water Operators