

School 81
Lead Testing of School Drinking Water
06/14/21

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 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 mg/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 schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time, a first draw sample.

Which outlets exceeded the action level during first draw testing?

None of the outlets exceeded the action level. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

What are other sources of lead exposure?

Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing and lead in soil and dust due to the historical use of lead in gasoline and paint. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Additional Resources

<https://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program-clppp>