



Drinking Water Sampling in Delaware Schools

Information Sheet

Results and Next Steps

- When results are received they should be immediately reviewed for any samples with elevated concentrations.
- Immediately turn off fixtures with concentrations higher than 7.5 ppb (0.0075 mg/L).
 - Fixtures that must remain in use for non-consumption (handwashing, ware washing, etc.) must be posted with Do Not Consume signage.
 - Kitchen faucets may remain in limited use if there is a critical need.
 - Use should be limited to handwashing, ware washing and food preparation that does not involve consumption (e.g. do not use the water for boiling rice, soup preparation, making tea).
 - If water is needed to boil pasta, potatoes, etc. only the cold-water lines should be used to fill pots prior to boiling.
- Determine remediation options for fixtures with elevated concentrations
 - Strategies could include fixture replacement, filtration and other steps, but will be determined on a case by case basis based on sampling results and consultation with facility staff and/or contractors.
- LEAs are encouraged to consider risk reduction strategies for concentrations below 7.5 ppb (0.0075 mg/L) in order to reduce risk to as low a level as reasonably achievable.
- Consider implementation of a filter first strategy.
 - Prioritize water fountains in high traffic areas, fixtures used for food prep and other high-use locations
 - Develop a maintenance plan for each facility to ensure regular inspection and replacement of filters
- Ice Machines
 - If the ice machine has an NSF/ANSI Standard 53 filter, ensure that it is properly maintained according to manufacturer's specifications.
 - If the machine does not have the proper filter, determine if one can be installed or considering adding the machine to a long-term monitoring plan.
- Bottled water can be considered if there are a significant number of outlets turned off or if it improves convenience of access to water. Bottled water should not be a long-term strategy in place of fixture replacement or filtration.
- When reviewing results, the frequency of fixtures or samples returning can be used to prioritize facilities or areas in need of further evaluation and/or remediation
- Working with your facilities team or contractors, using data can guide next steps:
 - If there are multiple fixtures where first draw samples are higher than flush samples, a flushing plan may reduce exposure until filters are installed or fixtures are replaced.
 - If there are fixtures where flush samples are higher, filtration should be a priority until further evaluation on the source is complete
 - Observation and inspection can determine if there are commonalities in locations with elevated results. Are the fixtures the same style, installed at the same time? Are fixtures different but installed in the same area or at the same time?

Communication and Education

- Results are provided to LEAs once DOE review is complete and DOE posts results to de.gov/schoolwater within one week of receipt.
- DOE will coordinate with LEAs to complement their planned communications strategy. This allows LEAs time to plan next steps and communication with their school communities with support of DOE, but LEAs must make every effort to complete communications the week results are received.
- Results and next steps will be communicated to students, staff and the broader school community as soon as possible:
 - Prior to sampling, districts should begin communicating with students, staff and communities, and keep them updated throughout the process
 - Social media, email blasts and other means can be used to direct people to district resources or de.gov/schoolwater, once data is posted.
 - Educational fact sheets and information regarding lead in drinking water, associated health risks, and other common sources of lead exposure are available on de.gov/schoolwater
 - Information about any elevated concentrations and next steps should be shared as soon as possible once results are received.
 - DOE and DPH are available to support with technical guidance and resources
- Resources for concerned parents or guardians
 - State service center locations providing screening can be found on de.gov/schoolwater.
 - Parents and guardians concerned about their child's blood lead level or exposure risk should consult with their child's primary care provider.