



LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES
(11-2019)

Background

The State of North Dakota has been awarded grant money to reimburse schools and child care facilities for the cost of sampling drinking water taps for lead. This grant is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality in conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) and Department of Human Services (NDDHS). The objective of the program is:

1. Reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water;
2. Help the state target funding toward schools and child care programs unable to pay for testing;
3. Utilize best practices for a lead in drinking water prevention program using the 3Ts model or a similar model;
4. Foster sustainable partnerships at the state and local level to allow for more efficient use of existing resources and exchange of information among experts in various educational and health sectors;
5. Enhance community, parent, and teacher cooperation and trust.

Purpose

The voluntary program strives to ensure environmental justice for all children across North Dakota, using a proactive approach to identify schools and child care facilities where drinking water contains lead levels of concern for children's health. The program strives to assist schools and child care facilities to:

1. **Communicate** the test results and important lead information to the public, parents, teachers, and larger community;
2. **Train** on the risks of lead in drinking water and on the testing for lead;
3. **Test** using appropriate 3Ts testing protocols and a certified laboratory;
4. **Take Action** based on testing results.

Evaluation Criteria

the program is opened to all schools and child care facilities within the state of North Dakota as long as funding is available.

Funding

Lead in Schools & Child Care Facilities Program will reimburse \$50 per sample, which will cover the cost of shipping samples and analysis by the NDDEQ laboratory. All sampling equipment needed to collect water samples will be provided at no cost to the facility. The NDDEQ will provide free online training for the facilities' representative on how to collect water samples, fill out all needed documentation and how to ship samples.



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Please note that if lead levels are equal to or higher than 15 ppb at any tap, the participating facility will be required to take the following actions:

1. Post signage by the tap indicating "Do Not Consume"
2. Conduct required follow-up water sampling.
 - This sample cost will also be reimbursed under the grant program.

If the follow up samples are above 15ppb, then the tap will need to be taking out of service or replaced. The costs of tap replacement or removal are not eligible for reimbursement. Also, additional costs such as employee wages, school website development, printing of communication materials, etc. will not be reimbursed.

Next Steps

1. Facilities interested in participating in this voluntary program, need to submit the enclosed School Lead Hazard Survey Form to start the application process. The survey results will allow DEQ to evaluate the facility for potential sources of lead in the water supply, along with lead-based paint (LBP) and dust. The form can be completed online at:
<https://deq.nd.gov/LeadInSchools/SchoolLeadHazardsSurvey.aspx>
2. Please note, that completion of the survey form does not commit schools to participate in the program. Once the NDDEQ receives the completed survey, NDDEQ will send the school a letter with more information about the program including a formal participation form which must be signed and returned to NDDEQ.
3. If you'd like additional information about the ND Lead in Schools testing program, please visit our website at: <https://deq.nd.gov/LeadInSchools/>