

Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (“LCRI”): Monitoring for Lead in Schools and Child Care Facilities

General Requirements

All community public water systems (communities) must conduct public education and lead monitoring at schools and child care facilities they serve, unless:

- The facility is constructed or has full plumbing replacement on or after January 1, 2014, and
- It is served by a known non-lead service line.

List of Schools and Child Care Facilities

Communities must compile, and report to the Department, a list of schools and child care facilities that are served by the water system no later than **November 1, 2027**. This list must be updated and reported to the Department every five years.

Frequency of Sampling

Beginning **November 1, 2027**, communities must collect samples from at least 20% of elementary schools and at least 20% of child care facilities served by the water system per year. All elementary schools and child care facilities must be sampled once, unless the community has documented **refusal** or **non-response**. Secondary schools must be sampled upon request.

Deadline for 100% School and Child Care Facilities Sampled: December 31, 2032

Funding Options for Communities

The DWEE Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program has grant funds available for communities to test for lead in tap water at their schools and licensed child care facilities across the state. Funding is also available for replacement and remediation of lead fixtures. **Please consider taking advantage of funds while available.**

Test Your Sources

- DWEE offers 100% grant assistance for schools and licensed child care facilities to conduct lead testing of drinking water fixtures.
- Samples are taken from the fixture locations and sent to the Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab (NPHEL) for processing.
- Remediation activities are discussed based on the sampling results.

Actions at Every Level

- No safe level of lead means DWEE offers 100% grant assistance to replace fixtures with a lead detection.
- The sampling must be processed through and obtain a result from the NPHEL.
- To ensure the lead is no longer detected in the location, post-replacement testing is offered at no cost to the facility.

DWEE Lead Testing in Schools Grant Expires: June 30, 2030

Facilities interested in funds to address lead remediation or that have not yet tested their drinking water fixtures can do so by contacting the Department lead contact at dwee.srf@nebraska.gov.

