

# Program Fact Sheet



## OKLAHOMA DRINKING WATER LEAD TESTING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS & CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Thank you for participating in the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Facilities Drinking Water (LWSC) program. You are taking an important step to ensure the health of our communities. This fact sheet will help you better understand the program and your role, as well as prepare you for questions from teachers, parents, and community members.

### Your Role in the Program

The LWSC program is a voluntary program run by DEQ - which utilizes EPA's 3Ts program framework. This framework aims to assist schools and child care facilities in the removal of lead from drinking water. The LWSC program provides free sampling and laboratory testing, as well as remediation assistance and financial aid for the replacement of fixtures found to contain lead. All results will be made publicly available on DEQ's website. **You and your staff will work with a DEQ representative to schedule the following steps:**



**Step 1**  
Inventory of all drinking outlets



**Step 2**  
Sampling before school day starts



**Step 3**  
Remediation & replacement of fixtures



**Step 4**  
Resample as needed

### Communication is Key



#### Why are we doing testing now?

Traditionally EPA regulations have focused on regulating treatment techniques of water systems to prevent corrosion of lead pipes. Recently there has been a push to remove all lead from drinking water lines, including fixtures, so it can't pose a threat to public health today or into the future.

#### What happens if we find lead?

If testing results show elevated lead levels, both short term actions such as: shutting off problem outlets, placing 'do not drink' signage, flushing taps, providing bottled water; and long-term actions such as: pipe/filter replacements or installing permanent filters, can be taken. Actions will be recommended based on your unique sample results.

#### What should you share with the public?

Communicating early and often about testing plans, results, and actions is key in gaining the trust of the community. It is important to be a reliable source of information for your teachers, students, and parents.

### FAQs

- Where can I find results once they are posted?
  - All results will be posted on the DEQ LWSC program website under the "Testing Results by School" page.
- Why should I care about lead?
  - There is no safe lead level and children are especially susceptible to exposure.
- Should I expect to find lead in my school?
  - Most samples come back with no lead detected, but the only way to know is to test. See our website for a full list of results.
- How can one know if a child has been exposed to lead?
  - The best way to know is through a blood test. Most children will have no obvious symptoms.

#### Contact DEQ

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#### Visit our website

