

Public School Drinking Water Lead Screening Program

Corrective Action Guidance

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is providing this Corrective Action Guidance to assist School Districts in addressing both immediate and long-term issues associated with the presence of lead in school drinking water.

If your school receives a lead screening drinking water sample result that reports a lead level greater than the 15 parts of lead per billion parts of water (15 ppb) screening level, ADEQ asks that the school undertake both immediate corrective actions and as needed, remedial actions.

Recommended Immediate Corrective Actions:

- If both drinking water screening samples for a building come back higher than 50 ppb, shut off all drinking water sources in the building, post the applicable sign at the following links, provide an alternate source of drinking water and notify parents. Maintain water supply for restroom and hand washing.
 - Drinking water fountain signs; [English](#), [Spanish](#)
 - Signs for other fixtures: [English](#), [Spanish](#)
- If one of two samples come back greater than 50 ppb, shut off only the one drinking water source that was greater than 50 ppb; NOT the entire building. Flush all drinking water sources in the building for one minute before drinking or using for cooking and notify parents.
- If one or both samples are between 15 and 50 ppb, flush all drinking water sources in the building for one minute before drinking or using for cooking and notify parents.
- If a sample was taken from a non-drinking water source, not prescribed by the screening protocol, while no immediate corrective action is necessary, post a “do not drink” sign at the location stating that the water source tested positive for elevated lead and notify parents.

Remedial Action Guidance

1. Notify school staff, students and parents about the drinking water lead screening results using the applicable ADEQ template available [here](#).
2. Engage ADEQ to start the process of obtaining resources for confirmation drinking water sampling and lead testing and implementing long-term remedial actions and solutions.
3. Potential interim actions:
 - a. Flush the piping system every morning (sampling of flushed water is required per EPA’s 3T’s for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools – https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf)
 - b. Provide alternate drinking water sources
4. Conduct follow-up drinking water sampling and testing for lead to confirm whether the source of the lead is the specific fixture that was sampled, other fixtures in that same building or elsewhere in the school’s plumbing system. Apply this information in developing and implementing a plan to eliminate the lead source. Possible solutions include:
 - a. Removing specific fixtures
 - b. Ensuring plumbing ground wires are functioning
 - c. Replacing any lead service lines
 - d. Replacing pipes within the school’s plumbing system
 - e. Reconfiguring the school’s plumbing to bypass lead sources
 - f. Installing valves to automatically flush problem delivery points
 - g. Installation of fixtures with NSF approved filters