

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 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 samples for a building come back above 50 ppb, shut off all sources of drinking water in the building, post one of the signs linked below, provide alternate source of water and notify parents. Leave water on for restrooms and hand washing.
 - Drinking Water Fountain Signs; [English](#), [Spanish](#)
 - Signs for other Fixtures: [English](#), [Spanish](#)
- If 1 of 2 samples come back above 50 ppb, shut off that one drinking water source, but not entire building. Flush all drinking water sources in the building for 1 minute before use as drinking water or a cooking source and notify parents.
- If one or both samples are between 15 and 50 ppb, flush all drinking water sources in the building for a 1 minute before use as drinking water or a cooking source and notify parents.
- If the sample was taken on a non-drinking water source, no immediate corrective action would be necessary but post a sign indicating that the source had tested positive for lead and not to drink the water. ADEQ, based upon recommendations from the Arizona County Public Health Directors and ADHS, does not recommend notifying the parents at this time until receiving the confirmation results.

Remedial Action Guidance

1. Notify school staff, students and parents about the drinking water lead screening results using the ADEQ template available to [download here](#).
2. Engage ADEQ to start the process of obtaining resources for confirmation drinking water sampling and testing for lead 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 whether the source is 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