

# TIME TO CHECK FOR LEAD IN DRINKING WATER!

## DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE A STRATEGY TO MITIGATE LEAD IN DRINKING WATER BEFORE THE SCHOOL SEASON BEGINS?

***\*\*\*This information is also useful for addressing copper\*\*\****

*New federal and state guidance for schools and early education and childcare facilities recommends that they identify and address all taps and water fountains used for drinking, cooking, and medical purposes that have levels of lead over the recommended laboratory detection limit of 1 part per billion or copper over 1.3 parts per million.*



Before school starts, is the time to think about important steps to minimize lead and copper levels in school drinking water.

Many facilities may shut down for vacations, extended periods or operated under reduced schedules during the year, resulting in decreased water use. When water is stagnant in building plumbing for long periods, lead or copper may leach into the water.

To reduce the likelihood of elevated lead or copper levels in your drinking water, the following is recommended:

### Lead and Copper Mitigation Checklist

- Flush all lines and fixtures before people use water from the facility if water has been stagnant for prolonged periods of time. *See below for more information on flushing strategies.*
- Before people use water from the facility, remove faucet screens and aerators and clean out any grit or debris. Continue to do this periodically. If aerators /screens are old and worn, replace them with new ones.
- Determine if your facility has a lead service line and work to replace it.
- Develop and/or maintain your own lead and copper sampling and analysis program. *See below more resources on how to develop this plan.*
- Keep an updated materials inventory of all fixtures in your schools and keep records of your sampling results.

Remember to always use water from the cold water tap for drinking, food and hot beverage preparation. Hot water will dissolve lead more quickly than cold water and may contain increased lead levels.

### More Resources

- Your facility's sampling plan should follow the protocol developed by MassDEP's LCCA Program available at [http://leadandcoppercontrolact.donahue-institute.org/LCCA\\_Framework\\_4.26.18/story\\_html5.html](http://leadandcoppercontrolact.donahue-institute.org/LCCA_Framework_4.26.18/story_html5.html).
- The lead and copper sampling result data, collected via MassDEP's electronic data reporting system eDEP, and remediation actions data, collected via the LCCA Program Management Tool, is now available through [The Energy & Environmental Affairs Data Portal \(EEA Data Portal\)](#).
- Find EPA's 3Ts document here: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water-toolkit>.

If you have any questions please contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) or contact our technical assistance partner, UMass, at [lccadep@umass.edu](mailto:lccadep@umass.edu) or 413-545-0840.