



Department of Environmental Protection

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IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT NEW RESOURCES FOR ADDRESSING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Dear School or Child Care Facility Official,

We have exciting news! The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is announcing two new resources to assist you in protecting children against exposure to lead in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities: **free water testing and a water bottle filling station grant program.**

New Expanded Assistance Program for Lead in School and Child Care Drinking Water

Using funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), MassDEP is expanding its efforts to address lead in drinking water at schools and child care facilities. We will be offering **free** lead testing and technical assistance to eligible facilities that did not participate in the previous Assistance Program and all private early education and child care group facilities that meet USEPA's priorities for funding (e.g., lower-income areas, older facilities serving children's ages 6 years old and younger). We will again collaborate with the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (UMass) to implement all aspects of the program, including training, planning, technical assistance, and water sampling and analysis.

Who is eligible for the new free lead testing program?	<u>Public</u> schools and childcare facilities statewide <u>Private</u> group care childcare facilities statewide
Where do I find out more information?	Visit: www.mass.gov/assistance-program-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water Email: lccadep@umass.edu or program.director-dwp@mass.gov

New Water Bottle Filling Station Grant Program

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (CWT), a state agency that develops and finances water infrastructure projects, is partnering with the Baker-Polito Administration to offer **grants** for

water bottle filling stations to eligible public schools, childcare facilities, and early education facilities that conduct lead testing and detect levels above 1 part per billion (ppb). The School Water Improvement Grant (SWIG) program will be conducted in collaboration with MassDEP and is meant to incentivize testing for lead. Public schools and childcare facilities that previously conducted testing, and those that participate in the next round of the Expanded Assistance Program, will be eligible for assistance through SWIG.

Who is eligible for the SWIG free bottle water filling station program?	<u>Public</u> schools and childcare facilities statewide
Where do I find out more information?	Visit: www.mass.gov/swig Email: SWIG@tre.state.ma.us

Continued MWRA Testing Program for Lead in School and Child Care Drinking Water

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), the largest public water system in Massachusetts, will also continue to provide **free** testing services for all participating facilities in their service area- public schools, public childcare facilities, and private group and family childcare facilities. MassDEP and UMass will continue to be the technical assistance provider for those conducting testing through MWRA’s program.

Who is eligible for the MWRA free lead testing program?	<u>Public and private</u> schools & <u>public and private group and family</u> childcare facilities within MWRA member communities
Where do I find out more information?	Email: Beverly.Anderson@mwra.com

We look forward to continuing to work with you on the issue of lead in drinking water.

Yvette DePeiza



Program Director
MassDEP Drinking Water Program