



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides
Secretary

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

May 21, 2019

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear School or Child Care Facility Official,

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is writing to you as part of our ongoing work together on lead in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities. This letter highlights new guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and identifies areas for action, as well as resources to help you.

In 2016, Governor Charlie Baker and Treasurer Deborah Goldberg launched the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water ("the Assistance Program"). The Assistance Program was designed to assist publicly owned public schools as well as early education and child care Licensed Large Group and School Age (LGSA) programs in assessing the levels of lead and copper in their facilities' drinking water. MassDEP and its Assistance Program partners, the Department of Public Health (MDPH), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Early Education and Childcare (EEC), proactively reached out across the Commonwealth to solicit schools and early education and care programs to sign up for assistance under the Assistance Program. The response was significant. Through this first-in-the-nation Assistance Program, a total of 67,913 samples were taken at 991 public schools and early education and care programs. The results found that 65% of the participating facilities had lead detected above the action level of 15 parts per billion. The Assistance Program encouraged and assisted schools to take appropriate actions to address these conditions.

To continue the Assistance Program, on October 25, 2018, Governor Baker notified EPA of the Commonwealth's intent to participate in the federal Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act grant program for Testing for Lead in Schools and early education and care programs. This grant program will provide funding to allow MassDEP to help participants with additional testing and to expand into testing of privately-owned early education and care programs, specifically focusing on facilities in lower income areas with buildings constructed pre-1988 (and thus more likely to have lead plumbing).

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

Printed on Recycled Paper

In its budget proposal for fiscal year 2020, the Baker-Polito Administration has proposed more than \$20 million in new funding and proposed legislative language to authorize the use of \$10 million in previously appropriated funding for public school de-leading projects. Funding can support the purchase of filtered bottle filling stations. MassDEP looks forward to these proposals advancing through the Legislature so that these new resources can be made available. We will keep you apprised and share information about any additional assistance as soon as it becomes available.

MassDEP and its partners are committed to continued support of schools and early education and care programs in order to ensure safe drinking water for all of the students and children they serve. To this end, below you will find updated guidance about lead in school drinking water, and opportunities for further assistance.

EPA released a revised “3Ts¹ for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities” manual (Revised 3Ts Manual) on Monday, October 1, 2018. EPA’s Revised 3Ts Manual provides tools for schools, child care facilities, states, and water systems to implement voluntary lead in drinking water testing programs. MassDEP has reviewed the Revised 3Ts Manual and is prepared to work with your schools and early education and care programs to implement the new federal recommendations. In this letter, you will find resources to help your school or early education and care program meet the new recommendations.

What are some of the important information and changes in the Revised 3Ts Manual?

In the Revised 3Ts Manual, EPA states that “there is no known safe level of lead for children”. EPA has also removed its longstanding Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) trigger level for lead in school drinking water and does not set a new trigger level. Instead EPA recommends that schools and early education and care programs prioritize their remediation efforts based on lead sample levels and to use the steps in the Revised 3Ts Manual to start with the highest lead levels to pinpoint potential lead sources and to reduce their lead levels to the lowest possible concentrations. Please note that no change has been made to recommendations about copper levels in drinking water.

What changes have been made to the Massachusetts LCCA program to address the Revised 3Ts Manual?

MassDEP and MDPH support the EPA 3Ts goal of reducing lead in school and early education and care program drinking water to the lowest possible concentration. MassDEP recommends a goal that water from taps/fixtures used for drinking, food preparation and medical uses contains no measurable level of lead, and that testing of school and early education and care programs’ drinking water should be conducted by a Massachusetts certified laboratory capable of measuring concentrations of 1 ppb (ug/L) or lower.

In light of EPA’s Revised 3Ts Manual, MassDEP’s LCCA program recommends that schools and early education and care programs continue to evaluate and remediate taps/fixtures with lead levels below 15 ppb until the lowest possible concentration of lead is achieved.

¹ “3Ts” now stands for training, testing and taking action.

Recognizing that continuing remediation actions below 15 ppb may require a phased approach, MassDEP, consistent with the Revised 3Ts Manual, recommends that schools and early education and care programs prioritize their remediation efforts based on the lead sample results and the vulnerability of the impacted populations. Under this approach, remediation of taps/fixtures with the highest lead sample results that serve the youngest populations should take priority.

- Remediation actions may include placing signage, providing bottled water, replacing water fixtures, replacing piping, installing filtration systems, and other actions identified in the Revised 3Ts Manual. Flushing taps/fixtures may be used as a short-term solution as long as follow-up testing demonstrates its efficacy. Permanent control measures should achieve lead levels consistently below 1 ppb.
- If lead sample results are above the laboratory's detection limit of 1 ppb, schools and early education and care programs should implement or continue remediation actions to reduce lead levels to the lowest possible concentration by prioritizing remediation actions based on the level of sample results and the vulnerability of the impacted populations.
- Taps/fixtures should not be put back into service until lead sample results are consistently below 15 ppb, and remediation actions to achieve the lowest possible concentration should continue, taking into account the priority of the tap/fixture.
- Please note that taps/fixtures used for purposes other than drinking, food preparation, and medical uses, such as bathroom and classroom faucets, should have a sign posted nearby advising against their use for drinking, food preparation, and medical uses, and young children should be appropriately supervised to ensure that these taps/fixtures are not used for these purposes. For examples of appropriate signage, please see <https://www.mass.gov/media/1925581/> (English) and <https://www.mass.gov/media/1925586/> (Spanish).

What should Massachusetts schools and early education and care programs do to address the new guidance in the Revised 3Ts Manual?

For Schools and Early Education and Care Programs Where Testing Has Recently Been Conducted

If your facility has already tested taps used for drinking, cooking, and medical uses, you should do the following as soon as possible:

1. Review the revised 3Ts information at www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts
2. Update your school or early education and care programs LCCA lead in school drinking water plan (LCCA plan) to include any new 3Ts information. See attached MassDEP example of an updated 3Ts Follow-up Actions Chart.
3. Review your lead testing results. These may include samples collected under the MassDEP Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water, samples collected by the public water system that serves your school as part of their Massachusetts Lead and Copper Rule monitoring requirements, or samples collected during voluntary efforts run by your school. If you reported any results through MassDEP's electronic web portal (eDEP), you may retrieve your results from the Massachusetts Energy & Environmental Affairs Data Portal at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/leadandcopper>.

4. Identify all fixtures used for drinking, food preparation, and medical uses with lead sample results of 1 ppb and above.
5. Implement your school or early education and care program revised LCCA plan.
6. Notify your consumers and MassDEP of the actions you have taken, or will be taking, to address the new guidance. You may notify MassDEP by updating your results and actions in the LCCA Program Management Tool at the link below.

For Schools and Early Education and Care Programs that Have Not Previously Done Testing but are Planning to Do Testing

If your school or early education and care program has not previously tested your water or you are not familiar with 3Ts or LCCA you should do the following:

1. Review the EPA 3Ts Toolkit at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water-toolkit>.
2. Review MassDEP information on how to conduct, sample, analyze and report on school fixtures at <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>. The guidance provided above for schools and child care facilities that have conducted testing also applies to schools undertaking testing going forward. You may also contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.
3. Develop and implement a LCCA plan based on the information you have reviewed.
4. Schools and early education and care programs should notify consumers and MassDEP of the actions they have taken, or will be taking, to address the new guidance. You may notify MassDEP by updating your results and actions in the LCCA Program Management Tool at the link below.

Resources for Schools and Early Education and Care Programs

For public schools, early education and care programs and Head Start programs MassDEP has partnered with UMass Amherst to establish a call-in number at which you can obtain technical assistance regarding EPA's Revised 3Ts Manual, including the type of remediation actions that may be taken in response to detectable lead results and the order in which remediation actions should be taken. A technical assistance provider can be reached at lccadep@umass.edu or 413-545-0840.

All schools, **including privately owned schools and** early education and care programs, may obtain technical assistance from MassDEP's Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770.

Other available resources

- **For updated Massachusetts information and technical assistance tools for the Revised 3Ts Manual** see <https://www.mass.gov/guides/follow-up-steps-for-schools-and-ecfc-with-lead-detections-over-1-ppb-or-copper-results-over>. This webpage includes recommended actions for schools with detected lead sampling results, draft notices that can be adapted to inform your community of any testing results, and the steps being taken to address the issue.

- For information on setting up a lead and copper drinking water testing program in your school, see the framework: http://leadandcoppercontrolact.donahue-institute.org/LCCA_Framework_4.26.18/story_html5.html.
- For the MDPH factsheet on lead see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lead-in-drinking-water-faq-for-school-and-childcare-facilities-english-0>.
- For more information on childhood lead poisoning see <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program>.
- For technical assistance in reducing the lead levels at your school you may also contact your local water department, Board of Health, or Plumbing Inspector.
- To manage and track the efforts you have taken; please use the LCCA Program Management Tool: <https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbxP99K-Cd5B3ioE7nswN0peOEndcGrXwV6zJcS5iHxzGO55B1k/exec>.
- WIIN Act grant program: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-lead-testing-school-and-child-care-program-drinking-water>.

If you have any questions about any of this information you may contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770 or program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

Sincerely,



Yvette DePeiza
 Program Director
 MassDEP/BWR/Drinking Water Program

Attachments

ecc:

- MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education
- MA Dept. of Early Education and Care
- MA Dept. of Public Health
- US EPA Region 1
- PWS
- BOH
- Facilities Directors
- Plumbing Board



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, Boston MA 02108 • Phone: 617-292-5751
Communication For Non-English Speaking Parties - 310 CMR 1.03(5)(a)



1 English:

This document is important and should be translated immediately. If you need this document translated, please contact MassDEP's Diversity Director at the telephone numbers listed below.



2 Español (Spanish):

Este documento es importante y debe ser traducido inmediatamente. Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor póngase en contacto con el Director de Diversidad MassDEP a los números de teléfono que aparecen más abajo.



3 Português (Portuguese):

Este documento é importante e deve ser traduzida imediatamente. Se você precisa deste documento traduzido, por favor, entre em contato com Diretor de Diversidade da MassDEP para os números de telefone listados abaixo.



4(a) 中國（傳統）(Chinese Traditional):

本文件非常重要，應立即翻譯。如果您需要翻譯這份文件，請用下面列出的電話號碼與 MassDEP 的多樣性總監聯繫。



4(b) 中国（简体中文）(Chinese Simplified):

本文件非常重要，应立即翻译。如果您需要翻译这份文件，请用下面列出的电话号码与 MassDEP 的多样性总监联系。



5 Ayisyen (franse kreyòl) (Haitian) (French Creole):

Dokiman sa-a se yon bagay enpòtan epi yo ta dwe tradui imedyatman. Si ou bezwen dokiman sa a tradui, tanpri kontakte Divèsite Direktè MassDEP a nan nimewo telefòn ki nan lis pi ba a.



6 Việt (Vietnamese):

Tài liệu này là rất quan trọng và cần được dịch ngay lập tức. Nếu bạn cần dịch tài liệu này, xin vui lòng liên hệ với Giám đốc MassDEP đã dạng tại các số điện thoại được liệt kê dưới đây.



7 ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា (Kmer (Cambodian):

ឯកសារនេះគឺមានសារៈសំខាន់និងគួរត្រូវបានបកប្រែភ្លាមៗ ប្រសិនបើអ្នកត្រូវបានបកប្រែ ឯកសារនេះសូមទំនាក់ទំនងឆ្នោតជាសាយក MassDEP នៅលេខទូរស័ព្ទដែលបានរាយ ខាងក្រោម។



8 Kriolu Kabuverdianu (Cape Verdean):

Es documento é importante e deve ser traduzido imidiatamente. Se bo precisa des documento traduzido, por favor contacta Director de Diversidade na MassDEP's pa es numero indicode li d'boche.



9 Русский язык (Russian):

Этот документ является важным и должно быть переведено сразу. Если вам нужен этот документ переведенный, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором разнообразия MassDEP по адресу телефонных номеров, указанных ниже.



10 العربية (Arabic):

هذه الوثيقة الهامة وينبغي أن تترجم على الفور. اذا كنت بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة، يرجى الاتصال مدير التنوع في MassDEP على أرقام الهواتف المدرجة أدناه.



11 한국어 (Korean):

이 문서는 중요하고 즉시 번역해야 합니다. 당신이 번역이 문서가 필요하다면 아래의 전화 번호로 MassDEP의 다양성 감독에 문의하시기 바랍니다.



12 հայերեն (Armenian):

Այս փաստաթուղթը շատ կարևոր է եւ պետք է թարգմանել անմիջապես. Եթե Ձեզ անհրաժեշտ է այս փաստաթուղթը թարգմանվել դիմել MassDEP բազմազանությունը տնօրեն է հեռախոսահամարների թվարկված են ստորև.



13 فارسی (Farsi (Persian):

این سند مهم است و باید فوراً ترجمه شده است. اگر شما نیاز به این سند ترجمه شده، لطفاً با ما تماس تنوع مدیر MassDEP در شماره تلفن های ذکر شده در زیر.



14 Français (French):

Ce document est important et devrait être traduit immédiatement. Si vous avez besoin de ce document traduit, s'il vous plaît communiquer avec le directeur de la diversité MassDEP aux numéros de téléphone indiqués ci-dessous.



15 Deutsch (German):

Dieses Dokument ist wichtig und sollte sofort übersetzt werden. Wenn Sie dieses Dokument übersetzt benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte Diversity Director MassDEP die in den unten aufgeführten Telefonnummern.



16 Ελληνική (Greek):

Το έγγραφο αυτό είναι σημαντικό και θα πρέπει να μεταφραστούν αμέσως. Αν χρειάζεστε αυτό το έγγραφο μεταφράζεται, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε Diversity Director MassDEP κατά τους αριθμούς τηλεφώνου που αναγράφεται πιο κάτω.



17 Italiano (Italian):

Questo documento è importante e dovrebbe essere tradotto immediatamente. Se avete bisogno di questo documento tradotto, si prega di contattare la diversità Direttore di MassDEP ai numeri di telefono elencati di seguito.



18 Język Polski (Polish):

Dokument ten jest ważny i powinien być natychmiast przetłumaczone. Jeśli potrzebujesz tego dokumentu tłumaczone, prosimy o kontakt z Dyrektorem MassDEP w różnorodności na numery telefonów wymienionych poniżej.



19 हिन्दी (Hindi):

यह दस्तावेज महत्वपूर्ण है और तुरंत अनुवाद किया जाना चाहिए. आप अनुवाद इस दस्तावेज़ की जरूरत है, नीचे सूचीबद्ध फोन नंबरों पर MassDEP की विविधता निदेशक से संपर्क करें.