



Welcome!

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) wants to help early care and education programs choose locations safe from environmental hazards.

Please submit this form if you would like DPH to check for possible environmental hazards at your child care program's current location or a new location you may be considering. This free service is available to all early care and education programs, including group and school age programs as well as family child care programs.

Why participate? To keep kids safe and help your business succeed! It's free and only takes a few minutes.

To submit by email, send to choosesafeplaces@mass.gov. To submit by mail, send to Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health, 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108.

For questions or more information, contact us at choosesafeplaces@mass.gov or 617-624-5757.

Contact Information

1. How can we get in touch with you to share the results?

1a. First Name

**must provide value*

1b. Last Name

**must provide value*

1c. Title

1d. Phone Number

**must provide value*

1e. Email Address

**must provide value*

Program Location and Status

Please provide the address and status of your early care and education program.

Enter NA if not applicable.

2. My early education and care program is:

**must provide value*

- ☐ Licensed/Active. Check here if you have an existing program, the program is moving, or you are opening another location.
- ☐ Not licensed/New. Check here if your program is not open yet.

3. My early education and care program is/will be:

**must provide value*

- ☐ Group and School Age Child Care program (center-based)
- ☐ Family Child Care program (home-based)

4. Name of program

**must provide value*

5. Street Address

**must provide value*

6. City/Town

**must provide value*

7. ZIP Code

8. Where did you hear about the Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education program?

- ☐ EEC Licensor
☐ EEC Potential Provider Meeting
☐ Social Media
☐ Internet Search
☐ Friend or colleague
☐ Other

8a. If other, please explain.

Property Questionnaire

The next questions ask about the property. It is okay if you don't know the answer.

Lead

Lead-based paint could have been used in buildings built before 1978. Lead exposure is most likely to cause harm during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood before age 6.

9. Was your building constructed before 1978?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

9a. If yes, has it been inspected for lead paint?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

9b. If yes, when was it last inspected?

9c. If yes, do you have a Letter of Compliance from a licensed lead inspector indicating that either no lead hazards were found or that deleading was completed to remove lead hazards?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Deleading is work done to remove or cover lead hazards and may include actions like replacing windows or covering (encapsulating) old paint.

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes naturally from soil and rocks. Radon can travel from the ground into a building and can cause lung cancer if you breathe it in over many years.

10. Has the building ever been tested for radon?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

10a. If yes, were the results above the EPA Action Guideline of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L)?

- ☐ Yes, but a mitigation system has been installed
☐ Yes, but a mitigation system has not been installed yet
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Property Use and History

Former uses of the property may have left behind harmful chemicals. It is also possible that nearby activities could pollute the air, contaminate groundwater, or leave chemicals on the ground that can wash onto neighboring properties.

11. Was the building or property used in the past for any of the following businesses or activities? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Auto Repair/Auto Painting Shop
- ☐ Dry Cleaner
- ☐ Factory/Manufacturing/Industry
- ☐ Farming/Agriculture
- ☐ Fire Station/Firefighter Training
- ☐ Funeral Home
- ☐ Gas Station
- ☐ Landfill/Dump/Junk Yard
- ☐ Old Mill Building/Mill Complex (i.e., paper, tannery, textile mill)
- ☐ Shooting Range
- ☐ 21E/Superfund/Brownfields Site
- ☐ Other businesses that may have used chemicals
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None

- 11a. For any boxes checked above, please provide as much additional information as possible.

*What was the name of the business? When did it operate?
Who was the property owner? What type of activities
occurred at the property? Other information?*

12. Have you seen any of the following at the property? (Check all that apply)

These items may indicate hazardous chemicals were used in the past.

- ☐ Appliances
- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ Construction debris
- ☐ Discarded car parts
- ☐ Farm equipment
- ☐ Metal barrels or drums
- ☐ Paint cans
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Don't know

- 12a. If other, please explain.

13. Are any of the following businesses in the same building, strip mall, or within eyesight? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Art studio (i.e., pottery studio)
- ☐ Auto Repair/Auto Painting Shop
- ☐ Copy/Print Shop/3-D Printer
- ☐ Dry Cleaner
- ☐ Factory/Manufacturing/Industry
- ☐ Funeral Home
- ☐ Gas Station
- ☐ Hair Salon/Nail Salon
- ☐ Other businesses that may use chemicals
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None

- 13a. For any boxes checked above, please provide as much additional information as possible.

What is the name of the business? Who is the property owner? Other information?

Drinking Water

Clean water is important, especially for infants who drink formula made with tap water.

14. Where does the drinking water come from?
- ☐ Public water supplier
☐ Private well
☐ Don't know
- 14a. If a private well, has it ever been tested?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
- 14b. If yes, did any contaminants exceed drinking water standards?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
15. Has the drinking water been tested for lead?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
- 15a. If yes, was lead detected?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Soil

Soil can contain contaminants such as lead, which can enter a child's body if they touch it or put their hands in their mouths after touching it.

16. Can children touch or play in soil in your outdoor play space?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

For example, areas with bare soil, patchy grass, or where wood chips/mulch has worn away.

- 16a. If yes, please explain.
-

17. Does the program have or plan to have a garden used by children?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Using raised beds with clean, purchased soil is the safest gardening method.

Environmental Assessments

For example, a Phase I or II Environmental Site Assessment.

18. Has an Environmental Assessment ever been completed for the property?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
- 18a. If yes, do you have a copy of the report?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
19. Do you have any other reason to think there may be an environmental hazard at the site or nearby?
- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
- 19a. If yes, please explain.
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Recommendations made pursuant to DPH's Choose Safe Places Program are based on publicly-available data and information at the time of the screen. For this reason, DPH cannot guarantee all possible environmental hazards will be identified. If remediation, follow-up testing, or other work is conducted as a result of DPH recommendations, DPH is not responsible for any costs associated with those activities. Please note that any data submitted by the participant or produced by DPH during the site screening process is considered public and will be shared with any party who requests it.

Thank you for participating in the Choose Safe Places program. We will review your responses and contact you with results within a few business days.

This property questionnaire was made possible by a cooperative agreement [program # CDC-RFA-TS-23-0001] from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and do not necessarily represent the official views of the ATSDR, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.