

EARLY ADOPTERS

State Approaches to Testing School Drinking Water for Lead in the United States



STATE PROFILE **Illinois**

Summary of Program Features

Illinois initiated a school drinking water lead testing policy in January 2017. This summary is based on a review of program documents collected between January 2018 – June 2018.

School Drinking Water Testing Policy/Program Overview

Policy/Program Feature	Information from Policy/Program Documents	Additional Information from Communication with State
------------------------	---	--

Background

Name	Senate Bill 0550 ¹	
Date(s) of Water Policy/Program	January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018 ²	
Issuing Authority	State legislature ^{1,2}	
Agency Responsible for Program Management	Illinois Department of Health ^{1,2}	
Policy or Program	Policy ^{1,2}	
One-time or Surveillance Program	One-time ^{1,2}	
Mandatory/Voluntary for Schools	Mandatory ^{1,2}	
Partnership with Local/Community Water Supplier/System	Yes, encouraged ^{1,2}	
Other Key Partnerships	Not specified	
References or Uses the EPA 3Ts	Yes ^{1,2}	

Program Coverage

School Type (Public, private, charter)	Public, private and charter schools ¹	
Grade Levels	Pre-Kindergarten – grade 5 ^{1,2}	
Includes Testing for Lead	Yes ^{1,2}	
Includes Treatment/Remediation	Yes ¹	
Schools Eligible to Participate		
Schools of a certain building age	Yes, those built prior to 2000 ^{1,2}	
Schools that serve certain ages/ demographics	Yes, those that serve pre-Kindergarten – grade 5 ^{1,2}	
Schools that are their own local/ community water supplier	Not specified	
Schools that use local/community water supplier	Not specified	
Schools that have not received a waiver	Yes ¹	

Funding

Funding Source	Not specified	
Funding Amount	Not specified	
Covers Sampling at Taps	Not specified	
Covers Testing in Lab	Not specified	
Covers Treatment/Remediation	Not specified	

Sampling Information

Policy/Program Feature	Information from Policy/Program Documents	Additional Information from Communication with State
------------------------	---	--

Background

Sampling/Testing Process One-Time or Recurring	One-time ^{1,2}	
Number of Buildings/Facilities Sampled (All or a Portion?)	A portion (those built before 2000 and serve more than 10 children in pre-Kindergarten – grade 5) ^{1,2}	
Types of Taps Sampled	Drinking and cooking ^{1,2}	
Number of Taps Sampled Per School/ Building (All or a Portion?)	A portion (those used for drinking/ cooking only) ^{1,2}	

Initial Sampling at Taps

Stagnation Period	8 to 18 hours ^{1,2}	
First Draw	Yes ^{1,2}	
Flushing Period	30 seconds ^{1,2}	
Second Draw (Flushed Sample)	Yes ^{1,2}	
Additional Initial Samples	Not specified	
Sample Size of Water	250 mL ^{1,2}	
Action Level for Lead	5 ppb ^{1,2}	

Action Required When Samples Exceed Action Level for Lead

Follow-Up Draws	Not specified	
Flushing Period	Not specified	
Sample Size of Water	Not specified	
Additional Draws	Not specified	

Testing/Remediation/Communication Information

Policy/Program Feature	Information from Policy/Program Documents	Additional Information from Communication with State
------------------------	---	--

Testing

Type of Lab Used for Testing	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency certified lab ^{1,2}	
Sample(s) that Require Action if Results are Elevated	Any of the samples ^{1,2}	

Remediation

Short-Term Measures	Yes, EPA-approved measures are listed ²	
Long -Term Measures	Yes, EPA-approved measures are listed ²	

Communication

Groups Notified of Test Results	Parents, government and general public ^{1,2}	
Type of Results Shared (outlet level, building level, school level)	Not specified	



Other Information on Illinois' Program for Lead Testing in School Drinking Water

For this study, we considered Illinois to have an action level of 5 ppb as listed in the original law of the 2017 legislative session. The law directed the Illinois Department of Public Health to post guidance for water treatment/remediation by April 2017. This guidance instructs schools to trigger remediation strategies if any level of lead is present in school drinking water. We did not include this guidance in our study given our focus on selecting and reviewing the state's initial policy and sampling guidelines.

Sources:

1. General Assembly of Illinois. *Lead in Drinking Water Prevention*; 2017. Senate Bill 0550. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/99/SB/PDF/09900SB0550lv.pdf>. Accessed March 1, 2018.
2. American Water Works Association Illinois Section. Sampling Protocol for Drinking Water in Schools. February 2017. <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/sampling-drinking-water-guidance-021617.pdf>. Accessed March 1, 2018.

Citation:

Cradock AL, Poole MK, Vollmer LY, Barrett JL, Flax C, Hecht CA. State Approaches to Testing School Drinking Water for Lead in the United States [State Profile: Illinois]. Boston, MA: Harvard Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; 2019. Available at <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc/projects/school-research/early-adopters>. Address correspondence to Angie Cradock, ScD, MPE at acradock@hsph.harvard.edu.

The findings in this profile are based on the results of research commissioned by Healthy Eating Research (HER), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, through a rapid-response grant focused on addressing research gaps related to policies aimed at helping children achieve a healthy weight.