

EARLY ADOPTERS

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



STATE PROFILE **Maryland**

Summary of Program Features

Maryland initiated a school drinking water lead testing policy in June 2017. This summary is based on a review of program documents collected between January 2018 – June 2018 and communication with Maryland state contacts.

School Drinking Water Testing Policy/Program Overview

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

Name	House Bill 270 (Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools) ^{1,2}	House Bill 270 ^{3,4}
Date(s) of Water Policy/Program	June 1, 2017 – July 1, 2020 ^{1,2}	June 1, 2017 (became effective), April 9, 2018 (regulation was finalized) and ongoing ^{3,4}
Issuing Authority	State legislature ^{1,2}	State legislature ^{3,4}
Agency Responsible for Program Management	Maryland Department of the Environment ^{1,2}	Maryland Department of the Environment ^{3,4}
Policy or Program	Policy ^{1,2}	Policy ^{3,4}
One-time or Surveillance Program	Surveillance program ^{1,2}	Surveillance program ^{3,4}
Mandatory/Voluntary for Schools	Mandatory ^{1,2}	Mandatory ^{3,4}
Partnership with Local/Community Water Supplier/System	Not specified	
Other Key Partnerships	Not specified	
References or Uses the EPA 3Ts	Not specified	Yes ²⁻⁴

Program Coverage

School Type (Public, private, charter)	Public and private schools ^{1,2}	Public, private and charter schools ^{3,4}
Grade Levels	Not specified	Pre-Kindergarten – grade 12 ²⁻⁴
Includes Testing for Lead	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes ^{3,4}
Includes Treatment/Remediation	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes ^{3,4}
Schools Eligible to Participate		
Schools of a certain building age	Not specified	Yes, ²⁻⁴ buildings constructed before 1988 are given first priority for testing ³
Schools that serve certain ages/ demographics	Not specified	Yes, ²⁻⁴ schools that serve pre-K to grade 5 are given first priority for testing ³
Schools that are their own local/ community water supplier	Not specified	No ^{3,4}
Schools that use local/community water supplier	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes ^{3,4}
Schools that have not received a waiver	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes ^{3,4}

Funding

Funding Source	Not specified	None (general funding for operation) ⁴
Funding Amount	Not specified	None ⁴
Covers Sampling at Taps	Not specified	None ⁴
Covers Testing in Lab	Yes, covered in-kind if state-lab is used ²	None ⁴
Covers Treatment/Remediation	Not specified	None ⁴



Sampling Information

Policy/Program Feature	Information from Policy/ Program Documents	Additional Information from Communication with State
<i>Background</i>		
Sampling/Testing Process One-Time or Recurring	Periodic ^{1,2}	Recurring (every 3 years unless the school has been granted a waiver) ^{3,4}
Number of Buildings/Facilities Sampled (All or a Portion?)	A portion (occupied buildings) ^{1,2}	A portion (buildings occupied by students)- Administrative buildings solely occupied by staff are not
Types of Taps Sampled	Drinking, cooking, ^{1,2} ice makers and hot drink machines ²	Drinking water fountains, ice making machines, hot drink machines, kitchen sinks, classroom combination sinks with drinking fountains, a home economics classroom sink tap, teachers' lounge sink, nurse's office sink and any other tap used for consumption ^{3,4}
Number of Taps Sampled Per School/ Building (All or a Portion?)	A portion (those used for drinking/ cooking in occupied buildings) ^{1,2}	A portion (those used for drinking/ cooking in student occupied

Initial Sampling at Taps

Stagnation Period	Not specified	8 to 18 hours ^{3,4}
First Draw	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes ^{3,4}
Flushing Period	Not specified	
Second Draw (Flushed Sample)	Not specified	
Additional Initial Samples	Not specified	
Sample Size of Water	Not specified	250 mL ^{3,4}
Action Level for Lead	20 ppb ¹ or EPA-recommended level ²	20 ppb ^{3,4}

Action Required When Samples Exceed Action Level for Lead

Follow-Up Draws	Yes, if initial results are elevated ^{1,2}	Yes, if initial results are elevated ^{3,4}
Flushing Period	Not specified	Minimum of 30 seconds ⁴
Sample Size of Water	Not specified	250 mL ^{3,4}
Additional Draws	Not specified	Not applicable

Testing/Remediation/Communication Information

Policy/Program Feature	Information from Policy/Program Documents	Additional Information from Communication with State
<i>Testing</i>		
Type of Lab Used for Testing	State-approved lab ^{1,2}	State-certified lab ^{3,4}
Sample(s) that Require Action if Results are Elevated	Not specified	All outlets with elevated lead results ^{3,4}
<i>Remediation</i>		
Short-Term Measures	Yes, EPA-approved measures are listed ^{1,2}	Yes, EPA-approved measures are listed ^{3,4}
Long -Term Measures	Yes, EPA-approved measures are listed ^{1,2}	Yes, EPA-approved measures are listed ^{3,4}
<i>Communication</i>		
Groups Notified of Test Results	Parents, government and general public ^{1,2}	Parents, legal guardians, teachers and other school employees, state and local governments (government MDE, MD State Dept. of Education, and local county health departments, and Maryland Department of Health); results available to general public on school website ^{3,4}
Type of Results Shared (outlet level, building level, school level)	Not specified	Elevated lead results: are shared with parents, legal guardians, teachers and other school employees; All lead results are shared with MDE, MD State Dept. of Education and local county health departments ²⁻⁴

Sources:

1. General Assembly of Maryland. Fiscal and Policy Note: Environment - Testing for Lead in Drinking Water - Public and Nonpublic Schools; 2017. House Bill 270. http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2017RS/fnotes/bil_0000/hb0270.pdf. Accessed March 1, 2018.
2. General Assembly of Maryland. Environment - Testing for Lead in Drinking Water - Public and Nonpublic Schools; 2017. House Bill 270. <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2017RS/bills/hb/hb0270T.pdf>. Accessed March 1, 2018.
3. Maryland Register. Lead in Drinking Water - Public and Nonpublic Schools. COMAR 26.16.07: Vol 45; 2018. http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Documents/Maryland_Register_COMAR_26.16.07.pdf. Accessed June 13, 2018.
4. Email Communication with Maryland Department of the Environment. June 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: Maryland]. 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.

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