EARLY ADOPTERS

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





Summary of Program Features

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



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 247 (2018) ¹ | |
| Date(s) of Water Policy/Program | 2018 to present ¹ | Adopted February 8, 2018, effective on July 1, 2019 ² |
| Issuing Authority | State legislature ¹ | |
| Agency Responsible for Program Management | New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services ¹ | |
| Policy or Program | Policy ¹ | |
| One-time or Surveillance Program | Surveillance ¹ | |
| Mandatory/Voluntary for Schools | Mandatory ¹ | |
| Partnership with Local/Community Water Supplier/System | Not specified | None ² |
| Other Key Partnerships | Not specified | New Hampshire Department of Education, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services ² |
| References or Uses the EPA 3Ts | Not specified | No ² |
| Program Coverage | | |
| School Type (Public, private, charter) | Public and private schools¹ | |
| Grade Levels | Pre-Kindergarten – grade 12¹ | |
| Includes Testing for Lead | Yes¹ | |
| Includes Treatment/Remediation | Yes¹ | |
| Schools Eligible to Participate | | |
| All schools | Not applicable | Yes, also all licensed childcare centers ² |
| OR (select all that apply) | | |
| Schools of a certain building age | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Schools that serve certain ages/ demographics | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Schools that are their own local/ community water supplier | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Schools that use local/community water supplier | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Schools that have not received a waiver | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Other | Schools that have not tested in the prior 2 years ¹ | |
| Funding | | |
| Funding Source | Not specified | None ² |
| Funding Amount | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Covers Sampling at Taps | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Covers Testing in Lab | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Covers Treatment/Remediation | Not specified | Not applicable ² |

Sampling Information

| Policy/Program Feature | Information from Policy/Program Documents | Additional Information from Communication with State |
|--|---|--|
| Background | | |
| Sampling/Testing Process One-Time or Recurring | Recurring (within every 5 years) ¹ | Recurring (every 5 years until 3 consecutive rounds below action level) ² |
| Number of Buildings/Facilities Sampled (All or a Portion?) | Not specified | All ² |
| Types of Taps Sampled | Drinking¹ | |
| Number of Taps Sampled Per School/ Building (All or a Portion?) | A portion (those used for drinking and are accessible to children) ¹ | |
| Initial Sampling at Taps | | |
| Stagnation Period | Not specified | 6 hours or more ² |
| First Draw | Not specified | Yes ² |
| Flushing Period | Not specified | None ² |
| Second Draw (Flushed Sample) | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Additional Initial Samples | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Sample Size of Water | Not specified | 1 L ² |
| Action Level for Lead | Standard for EPA ¹ | 15 ppb² |
| Action Required When Samples Exce | ed Action Level for Lead | |
| Follow-Up Draws | Not specified | Following remediation ² |
| Flushing Period | Not specified | Not applicable ² |
| Sample Size of Water | Not specified | 1 L ² |
| Additional Draws | Not specified | Not applicable ² |

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 | Not specified | State-certified lab ^{1,2} | | |
| Sample(s) that Require Action if Results are Elevated | Not specified | All exceeding the 15 ppb action level ^{1,2} | | |
| Remediation | | | | |
| Short-Term Measures | Yes, one measure is listed¹ | Yes (must provide interim safe water until remediation is complete) ^{1,2} | | |
| Long -Term Measures | Not specified | Implement state-approved remediation ^{1,2} | | |
| Communication | | | | |
| Groups Notified of Test Results | Parents ¹ | Parents and guardians ^{1,2} | | |
| Type of Results Shared (outlet level, building level, school level) | Not specified | All results above action level ^{1,2} | | |



Sources:

- 1. General Court of New Hampshire. *AN ACT Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning from Paint and Water*; 2018. Senate Bill 247. http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?id=978&txtFormat=html&sy=2018. Accessed April 16, 2018.
- 2. Email Communication with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Contact. 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: New Hampshire]. 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.