



OKLAHOMA DRINKING WATER

LEAD TESTING

IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS & CHILD CARE FACILITIES

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality is leading the voluntary Lead Testing in Schools & Child Care Facilities Drinking Water (LWSC) Program in order to provide safe drinking water for children and staff throughout the state of Oklahoma.

History

Lead contamination in drinking water is a known hazard. In 2021 EPA announced the Lead and Copper Rule revisions which aim to remove lead from all public drinking water service lines, including in schools and childcare facilities.

While newer buildings are unlikely to have lead service lines- lead fixtures, solder, and pipes could be cause for contamination. In order to protect children from lead exposure, the LWSC program assists facilities with free sampling and testing. Based on results, DEQ will also provide guidance on how to reduce or eliminate lead found in a facility's drinking water.

Who is Eligible

All public schools and public/private child care facilities in Oklahoma are eligible to participate.



Application Process

Facility administrators can sign-up their school or child care facility, and parents and staff can nominate a facility on the Oklahoma DEQ website. Once DEQ receives an application or nomination, staff will review documents and contact facility administrators to coordinate the program process.

How to Apply or Nominate a Facility

Visit our website to complete an application or nomination form, or call (405)-702-8147



Outlet Inventory

Sample collection requires two steps, first an inventory of all drinking outlets. Our team will visit your facility and identify all outlets to be tested during the sampling event. At this time, we will work with facility staff to create maps and investigate interior plumbing.



Sample Collection

DEQ partners and staff will conduct the sampling at facilities at no cost. Sampling will take place early in the morning before water is used for best results. All samples are sent to an accredited laboratory for analysis. Results will typically be available within 14 days of a completed sampling.



Results

All sampling results will be sent to the participating facility and will also be posted to DEQ's website. In cases of elevated lead levels, facility administrators will be notified immediately. They will then work with DEQ staff to create a remediation and/or replacement plan as appropriate for their facility.



Remediation and Replacement Assistance

Reimbursement funding is available for major repairs and remediation. Remediation examples might include fixture replacement, adding filters, or interior plumbing work. DEQ will provide recommendations on how to reduce or eliminate lead found in drinking water sample results.