



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Testing for Lead in Drinking Water - Public and Nonpublic Schools

Status Update

December 6, 2018



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Summary of activities and initial results from reporting period ending July 1, 2018*
- Overview of elevated lead level results
- Report to Governor and General Assembly
- Implementation of Data Tracking System
- Questions/discussion

** Unless otherwise stated, all information in this presentation concerns the reporting period ending July 1, 2018*



Background

- Maryland House Bill 270 passed during 2017 legislative session.
- Final regulations became effective April 9, 2018.
- Initial rounds of testing due by July 1, 2018.
- Testing required every three years unless school is granted a waiver.
- Testing required within one year of new construction or plumbing upgrades.



Applicability

- HB270 applies to all occupied public and nonpublic schools serving children in grades Pre-K to 12 that receive drinking water from a public utility
- HB270 does NOT apply to schools that have their own individual well(s) and are already subject to testing under the federal Lead and Copper Rule
- HB270 does NOT apply to facilities solely licensed solely by the MSDE Office of Child Care (e.g. daycare centers)



Overview of HB 270 Requirements

- Testing all drinking water outlets in the school building(s) from which water is consumed or used for drink and food preparation
- Testing performed during regular school year while school is in session
- Action level of 20 ppb in 250-ml first-draw sample
- Sample analysis performed by Maryland-certified laboratory
- Notification requirements for any/all elevated lead levels
- Remediation requirements

Sample Locations

Consumption Use:

- ✓ Kitchen sinks
- ✓ Drinking water fountains
- ✓ Classroom combination sinks (sink + drinking fountain)
- ✓ Teachers' lounge sinks
- ✓ Nurse's office sinks
- ✓ Home economics room sinks
- ✓ Classroom sinks in special education classrooms
- ✓ Ice machines and hot drink machines
- ✓ Any other outlet used for drinking or food preparation

Non-Consumption Use:

- X Utility sinks
- X Mop sinks
- X Hose bibs, unless used for consumption
- X Bathroom sinks, unless used for consumption
- X Any outlet not used for drinking or food preparation

***If a water outlet is not used for consumption purposes, it must be clearly labeled with a sign (except for eyewash stations and shower heads)



Deferrals

12-Month Deferral

Schools have a detailed plan in place to test all drinking water outlets.

Schools have a detailed plan of actionable steps to take if elevated levels of lead are found in any drinking water outlet.

3-Year Deferral

All drinking water outlets in the school have previously been tested for lead.

Results of most recent testing do not show elevated levels of lead (greater than 20 ppb) in any of the drinking water outlets.

- 662 approved twelve-month deferrals (no applications from MCPS schools)
- 105 three-year deferral applications received (none from MCPS schools)
 - Very specific testing requirements per HB 270 regulations
 - 88 denied; 27 under review



Waivers

Type 1 (Prior Testing)

- All drinking water outlets tested no earlier than 5 years before the effective date of the regulations;
- Every test result for every sample collected was 5 ppb or lower.

- 12 Applications
- 7 Denied
- 5 Under Review

Type 2 (Bottled Water)

- No access to piped water from any drinking water outlet;
- Bottled water meeting all NPDW standards is the only source of water for drinking and food preparation.

- 112 Applications
- 106 Denied
- 6 Under Review

Type 3 (Lead-Free Building)

- The service line, all plumbing connecting the school to the water main;
- All interior plumbing in the school building is certified to be lead-free.

- 6 Applications
- 1 Denied
- 5 Under Review



Initial Results for Period Ending July 1, 2018

- 415 schools (public, charter and nonpublic) conducted testing
 - 322 public schools
 - 207 Montgomery County public schools
- One or more elevated lead level (> 20 ppb) found in 186 schools
 - 157 public schools (48.7 %)
 - 88 Montgomery County public schools (42.5 %)
- Elevated lead levels:
 - Statewide: 724 of 25,348 samples (2.9%)
 - Montgomery County public schools: 228 of 13,248 samples (1.7 %)



Elevated Lead Levels—Outlet Use and Type

- Proportion of elevated results—outlet use:
 - Statewide: 53% consumption, 38% non-consumption, 9% unknown
 - All Montgomery County outlets tested considered consumption outlets
- Proportion of elevated results—outlet type:
 - Classroom sinks: 41% statewide, 38% MCPS
 - Bathroom sinks: 16% statewide (NA MCPS)
 - Drinking fountains: 12% statewide, 26% MCPS
 - Kitchen sinks: 9% statewide, 16% MCPS
 - *16% of MCPS elevated results classified as 'Other'*



Report to Governor and General Assembly

MDE and MSDE must submit a joint report to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly by December 1st of every year:

- The name and address of each school that has tested its drinking water for lead during the reporting period;
- The name and address of each school found to have elevated levels of lead in its drinking water;
- The type of outlet from which a drinking water sample with an elevated level of lead was collected and its location in the school building; and
- The use of each water outlet with an elevated level of lead and the levels detected.



Implementation of HB 270 Data Tracking System

- MDE contracted with 120WaterAudit
- Assist with tracking various data:
 - School inventory and testing schedule
 - Lead testing results
 - Deferrals and waivers
 - Notification and remediation
- Automation and error reduction
 - Direct data uploads
 - Single entity for reporting by schools
- Currently available for school registration
 - Create user account at <https://tinyurl.com/y762arv8>.



Questions?

Thank you!

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