



# DRINKING WATER LEAD TESTING AND REDUCTION PROGRAM

For Schools and Licensed Child Care Facilities

NEBRASKA

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Every child deserves a bright and healthy future and safe access to drinking water, whether at home or in school or child care facilities. During a school year, the majority of a child's daily drinking water consumption comes from their school water sources, and infants who consume mostly mixed formula are at greater risk for lead exposure. Drinking water in schools may have concentrations of lead from faucets, fixtures, fountains, or water filling stations. Knowing these lead concentrations is paramount to protecting children from lead exposure.

## What's Done to Address Lead in Schools and Child Care Programs in Nebraska?

The EPA and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) encourage schools and licensed child care programs to reduce children's exposure to lead from drinking water by testing drinking water for lead and taking appropriate and necessary actions to correct any problems.

The NDEE's Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program has grant assistance available to support eligible facilities that are willing to participate in their efforts to test for and remediate exposure to lead in drinking water. Since 2020, one-third of Nebraska's schools and licensed child care facilities have taken advantage of this grant assistance to sample their drinking water for lead.

## Why Test Drinking Water for Lead?

There is no known safe level of lead exposure. Childhood exposure to lead may be associated with hearing and speech impairments, learning disabilities, behavioral disorders, slowed growth and development, and adverse impacts to the developing nervous system. Children ages 6 and younger are the most vulnerable to the effects of lead exposure due to their rapid rate of growth and ongoing brain development. Childhood lead poisoning is preventable, so identifying and reducing sources of exposure is crucial.

## How Can I Learn More?

To ensure schools, child care facilities, and parents can make informed decisions about children's drinking water, a summary of water testing results is available on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Lead-Data.aspx>.

For more information about water quality in schools and child care facilities, please contact the NDEE. Because it's important to investigate other possible sources of lead, NDEE recommends contacting your local water supplier for information about water quality and sampling for lead at home.



## Contact

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