

DC Water Filtration and Testing Protocol for DCPS and DPR Facilities Updated 10/28/2024

DC Law 22-21, the Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Amendment Act of 2017, governs the filtering and testing of drinking water sources in DCPS and DPR facilities to minimize concentrations of lead in drinking water.

The purpose of this protocol is to provide procedures implemented by the Department of General Services (DGS), District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to meet the requirements of the Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Amendment Act of 2017 and to minimize lead in drinking water in DCPS and DPR facilities. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance and best management practices and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) also contributed to this protocol.

The content of this protocol was developed by an interagency team of DGS, DCPS, DPR, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME), Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), the Office of the City Administrator, and community stakeholders; recently updated by DGS and DCPS. This document may not be used in any form for sale or unauthorized distribution.

Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Amendment Act of 2017, DC Law 22-21

DC Law 22-21, the **Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Amendment Act of 2017** requires that DGS:

- locate all drinking water sources in DCPS and DPR facilities,
- install and maintain filters for reducing lead at all drinking water sources,
- post conspicuous signs on water sources that are not drinking water sources that communicate that the water should not be used for cooking or consumed, and
- test all drinking water sources for lead annually.

DC Law 22-21 requires that if a test result shows that a drinking water source's lead concentration is equal to or greater than 5.0 parts per billion (ppb), the drinking water source must be shut off within 24 hours after receiving the test results. DC Law 22-21 requires that a report for each facility be created and published on DGS's website. That report must include a list of all tested drinking water sources including their barcode identification numbers, the date and results of the most recent lead test, information about lead water filters including installation and replacement date, and any remediation steps that will be or have been taken.

Although the law sets the actionable level of lead at 5.0 ppb in drinking water sources, the District's goal remains less than 1.0 ppb in all drinking water sources in DCPS and DPR facilities.

Filtration, Filter Selection and Replacement, Testing Frequency and Reporting

Filtration

DC Law 22-21 defines a drinking water source as “a source of water from which a person can reasonably be expected to consume or cook with the water originating from the source”. As new schools or recreation facilities are added to the agency’s inventory and when school renovations are completed, identified drinking water sources in the facility will be inventoried, have filters installed, and will be tested according to this protocol.

DGS has inventoried and installed filters on drinking water sources specifically identified by school leaders and DPR managers including all water fountains, water coolers, bottle fillers, and all sinks in break rooms, ECE classrooms, and health suites in DCPS buildings and DPR recreation centers. Per DC Law 22-21, at least one kitchen sink in each school kitchen shall be designated as a Food Prep Sink (consumable water source) and is also identified as a Critical Use Outlet for food operations of a school or facility and filtered/tested accordingly.

- When determining a new drinking water source, a designated DCPS or DRP staff member will collaborate with DGS staff member or contractor at each school or recreation center to identify sources that are used by students, staff, and the public for drinking water.

In DCPS and DPR facilities, a DGS staff member or contractor will photograph all drinking water sources, label all drinking water sources with a unique QR-coded identifier, and enter all identifying data into the DGS Salesforce Water Testing Application. This program will track all activity and history associated with each drinking water source.

Critical Use Outlet

Food Prep Sinks in DCPS kitchens are an integral part of the day-to-day operation of any school. Since the conception of the District’s current Lead in Drinking Water Program in 2017, it has become apparent that when a Food Prep Sink is removed from service, operations can be significantly impacted.

To alleviate any disruptions of Food Prep Sink operation from this program, DGS has designated Food Prep Sinks as a *Critical Use Outlets*. *Critical Use Outlets* identifies devices that are drinking water sources, found within the main kitchen of a school, and are only accessible to school and kitchen staff. Associated with the designation, alternative remediation strategies are offered and outline below. This strategy of designating Food Prep Sinks as *Critical Use Outlets* demonstrates DGS’s commitment to ensuring the safety of food preparation areas in school kitchens and maintaining uninterrupted food service.

Mixing Valves

Mixing valves are utilized within schools and other facilities to regulate the temperature of water to an outlet. Sinks intended for consumption purposes must have separate and dedicated hot and cold-water supply lines and faucet handles for the user to operate. Sinks with components such as touchless controls and single use handles have mixing valves and should be limited to non-consumable devices. The way in which these components are designed leads to the commingling of hot and cold water, and therefore when consumed by the user, a portion of the water they are drinking is from the hot water supply, which is an unfavorable practice. When a mixing valve is present, that converges the supply lines, the device is considered non-consumable and the device will not be filtered and appropriate infographics placed.

Science Labs and Art Rooms

Based on the presence of potential hazardous substances used for instructional purposes in Science Labs and Art Rooms, all devices within these spaces are considered non-consumable to eliminate potential contamination. Any combination fountains identified, will be removed and capped.

Filter Selection and Replacement

DC Law 22-21 requires that all drinking water source filters be maintained per the manufacturer's specifications and that filters, or all of the filter's component parts, shall be certified for lead reduction to the National Sanitation Foundation ("NSF")/American National Standards Institute ("ANSI") Standard 53 for Health Effects or NSF/ANSI Standard 61 for Health Effects. All filters currently utilized for water filtration by DGS meet these standards. All filters are replaced annually per manufacturer specification. Filter selection is dependent on the drinking water source type and size.

- Bottle fillers (formally referred to as hydration stations) should be considered to replace traditional fountains where feasible and subject to funding availability. The bottle fillers should have filter life indicator lights and should be of a brand that meets the ANSI standards outlined in DC Law 22-21 as well as one that tests consistently below 1.0 ppb.

Testing Frequency and Reporting

DC Law 22-21 requires that all drinking water sources be tested annually, and the results be posted online on DGS's website. Water testing results for [DCPS facilities can be found here](#). Water testing results for [DPR facilities can be found here](#). Testing of DCPS facilities will occur during the school year and testing in DPR facilities will occur during months of operation. Annually, a certified team of professionals will collect samples from filtered devices in all DCPS and DPR facilities.

- After each test, the public records on the DGS website shall be updated within 5 business days.

- In addition to testing each drinking water source annually, DGS will conduct additional testing at DCPS and DPR facility sites on which there is active construction, extensive renovation, and/or demolition.

DC Law 22-21 requires that an annual schedule for testing drinking water sources be made available before the start of school. DGS will post the testing schedules to the DGS website for DCPS schools prior to the start of school.

Water Sample Collection Plan

The Water Sample Collection Plan describes the specific task elements and activities, field and laboratory methods, data assessment, and reporting procedures to be followed for water quality monitoring during water testing and device remediation.

1. Water Sample Collection Event Preparation
 - a. Collection of water samples must be performed by a MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) certified water sampler¹. Prior to a sampling event a DGS staff member or contractor must visit the facility to ensure all operational devices have been adequately run prior to testing.
 - b. Prior to testing, water should not flow through the device for at least six (6) hours but not more than eighteen (18) hours.
 - c. The water sampler is responsible to ensure the integrity of the collection sample, including certifying that water has not flowed through the device for the appropriate period prior to testing. The head custodian or facility logistics personnel, at the instruction of the water sampler, is asked to assist in preventing anyone from using the identified source prior to the sampling and to ensure that each identified source is ready for sampling on the morning of water collection. To collect a representative sample, drinking water is only collected on days following normal operation days. Therefore, Sundays, Mondays, and days after holidays are not used for collection.
 - d. The water sampler will generate a chain of custody using the Salesforce Water Testing Application and labels with the unique sample identification number assigned in the application. Note: first and second draw sample bottle labels are automatically generated and associated to the water source ID, by the Water Testing Application for accurate association and reporting of results for that device.

¹ To ensure the integrity of the water tests, DGS is requiring personnel collecting samples to be certified in water sample collection. The District of Columbia does not provide such a certification.

2. Collection of Water Samples

- a. Laboratories used for testing lead in water must be certified and capable of a detection limit of 1.0 ppb and electronic file response. Results must be delivered to the agency within a reasonable amount of time without hold or as designated in the contract.
- b. Each filtered device will be tested using two (2) 250-milliliter non-preserved wide mouth polypropylene bottles which have been cleaned and acid washed for sample collection. The certified water sampler collects a sample from first stream/flow of water at each device, or “First draw.” After the first draw sample is collected, the tap remains discharging for a full 60 seconds. The certified water sampler then collects another sample, known as the “2nd Draw”. This 2nd draw sample aids in further identification of potential lead sources.
- c. The label with the ID number is attached to the bottle. The identifying digits of the ID number are written on the bottle cap.
- d. Once sampling is complete the occupants can return to normal water use. Devices are tagged out and shut off if lead in water is found to be above the actionable level and remediation is required. During remediation, devices will remain tagged out and shut off until follow-up water testing results show the presence of lead below actionable levels.
- e. After all water samples are collected at a location, a quality control check is performed by a DGS staff member or contractor supervisor to ensure representative samples of the water sources have been collected, samples are correctly identified, and the chain of custody paperwork is accurate.
- f. The samples, along with a chain of custody, are delivered to a certified drinking water laboratory with use of storage containers for reduction of risk of damaging during transportation. Samples can be held within applicable holding times or grouped together for logistical purposes. In addition, where multiple facilities have a low number of samples to collect, samples can be submitted once all collection is complete.

3. DGS Final Laboratory Analysis Results

- a. An electronic file of the lab results is emailed to the DGS staff member and/or contractor. The results are uploaded into the Salesforce Water Testing Application.
- b. After the quality control process at the lab, a final copy of the lab results with all required signatures is emailed to the DGS staff member and/or contractor.

Remediation Procedures and Communication

1. Tag Out Procedure

- a. Upon receipt of a water test result in which the level of lead is greater than the actionable level, the affected device will be shut off and “tagged out” within 24 hours of receiving an actionable result and occupant use prohibited in a practical manner (shutting off both cold and hot water supplies where applicable).
 - i. Any water source with a test result above the actionable level of 5.0 ppb will be shut off and tagged at the device by DGS within 24 hours of receipt of test results. If at any time a device is discovered to have the water supply operable after initial tag out but prior to test results below actionable level, the water is to be turned off immediately. This tag also serves as a notification to consumers not to drink water from the device. The tag includes:
 1. Both written and visual notification in contrasting colors
 2. Contact information for the DGS representative
 - ii. When the tag is placed, the unique DGS water source identification number and the name of person applying the tag is written on the tag. The water supply is shut off or checked to ensure that the water supply remains shut off during remediation. A second signature is entered when the tag is verified to be correct, and the device remains out of service.
 - iii. The tag is only to be removed by a DGS staff member or contractor after receipt of test results that demonstrate concentrations of lead less than the actionable level. Water is run through the device when it is returned to service to ensure proper operation.
 - iv. DGS will notify DCPS or DPR Operations staff that a water source has tested above actionable level and that the device will be tagged out and shut off within 24 hours.
- b. Upon receipt of a water test result in which the lead concentration is greater than the actionable level, the following communication steps will be taken by DGS:
 - i. DGS will provide the Office of either the Chief Operating Officer of DCPS or the Office of the Deputy Director for Administrative Services of DPR the test results and remediation steps within 5 business days of receiving the test result; and
 - ii. Update the publicly available test results within 5 business days of

receiving the results to reflect the latest information, including any remediation steps that have been taken and will be taken.

- c. Following the tag out of devices with lead concentrations above actionable levels, a DGS staff member, contractor, or plumbing contractor will perform the following remediation steps:
 - i. Confirm the filter is properly installed on the device and that all plumbing connections are secure. After confirmation of proper installation, the contractor will perform a filter replacement and aerator change (if applicable to the devices). After the plumbing/filter check with applicable aerator replacement is complete a certified water sampler is dispatched by a DGS staff member to collect samples using the same testing protocol as stated in Sections 2 and 3. After sampling, the water supply to the device is turned back off. A tagged-out device will only be turned on for an adequate time to retest and will be taken out of service pending additional test results.
 1. If a school with a single Critical Use Outlet, or all of the Critical Use Outlets, tests above the actionable limit, along with the steps described above, DGS staff or contractors will install a temporary, freestanding filtration unit and faucet that the kitchen staff can use during the remediation process while waiting for results of the remediation retest. Once retest results are received and levels are found to be below the actionable level, the temporary filtration unit and faucet will be removed and use of the Food Prep Sink can resume.
- d. If the result of the post-repair testing event remains above the actionable level, the water source remains turned off and tagged and the contractor will perform the second remediation step:
 - i. The device is replaced with a new unit and retested. Replacement comprises replacing all components of the device from the filter to the point of discharge. Replacement parts will be required to comply with the standards for lead content in plumbing set forth by the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act of 2011. After replacement is completed, a certified water sampler is dispatched by a DGS staff member to collect samples using the same testing protocol as stated in Sections 2 and 3. After sampling, the water supply to the device is turned back off.
 1. Any replacement device shall meet the ANSI standards outlined in DC Law 22-21.

- e. If the results of post-replacement results are below the actionable level, the device is returned to service; however, if the results remain above actionable level, the third remediation step to be taken is:
 - i. DGS will consult with industry professionals and DC Water experts regarding additional remediation steps specific to that water source. After the additional remediation steps are taken, a certified water sampler is dispatched by a DGS staff member to collect samples using the same testing protocol as stated in Sections 2 and 3. After sampling, the water supply to the device is turned back off.
- f. If the results of post-consultation remediation steps are below the actionable level, the device is returned to service; however, if the results remain above actionable levels, the final step in the remediation process to be taken is:
 - i. Re-designate the source to a non-drinking water source and clearly label the source with a conspicuous sign that indicates that water from that device shall not be consumed or used for cooking.
 - 1. The decision to designate a water source as non-drinking will be made by the Office of the Chief Operating Officer of DCPS or the Office of the Deputy Director for Administrative Services of DPR after an analysis of programmatic and hygienic need and consultation with DGS regarding the inability to remediate the water source to below the actionable level. The change in designation must occur within 30 days of receipt of the post-consultation test results.
 - ii. If the device is intended specifically for consumption purposes only, it must be removed from service and all supply and drain lines capped appropriately.

2. DGS Communications with DCPS

- a. DGS communicates all test results and notification of device tag outs via email from the DGS Communications Division to DCPS Office of the Chief Operating Officer. DGS will maintain test results on its website (<https://dgs.dc.gov>) for each school facility.

3. DGS Communications with DPR

- a. DGS communicates all test results and notification of device tag outs via email from the DGS Communication Division to the Deputy Director for Administrative Services of DPR. DGS will maintain test results on its website (<https://dgs.dc.gov>) for each recreation center.

4. Communication to DCPS Parents, Staff, and Stakeholders

- a. DCPS will communicate annual testing schedules to parents, staff, and stakeholders at the beginning of the school year through take-home letters, e-mail, and other methods of communication as well as post the information to the DCPS and DGS websites. Also available will be the outline of the District's water testing protocol, specifically highlighting remediation steps to be taken in the event of lead concentration in a device exceeding actionable levels.
- b. DGS will make available to DC residents online and in a searchable format the following data, both per school and in aggregate:
 - The date and results of the most recent lead test performed;
 - The date the current filter was installed;
 - The date when the filter will next be replaced;
 - The barcode identification number; and
 - Any remediation steps that will be or have been taken.
- c. If a water test shows a result of lead concentration above the actionable level, DCPS, within 2 business days of receiving notification from DGS, will publish the information on the DCPS website and send the information to parents or guardians of children attending the public school through email or other written communication including a link to the DGS test results website. If any devices have lead concentration above actionable levels, the type of device and location of device will be highlighted in the available information and a remediation schedule will be provided as well as the tag out date of the device.

5. Communication to DPR Parents, Staff, and Stakeholders

- a. DPR will post annual testing schedules at the recreational center and on the DPR and DGS websites. Also available online will be a link to the District's water testing protocol, specifically highlighting remediation steps to be taken in the event of lead concentration in a device exceeding actionable levels.
- b. DGS will make available to DC residents online and in a searchable format the following per school and aggregate data:
 - The date and results of the most recent lead test performed;
 - The date the current filter was installed;
 - The date when the filter will next be replaced;
 - The barcode identification number; and
 - Any remediation steps that will be or have been taken.

- c. If a water test shows a result of lead concentration above the actionable level, DPR, within 5 business days of receiving notification from DGS, publish the information on the DPR website and link to the DGS test results website. If any devices have lead concentration above actionable levels, the type of device and location of device will be highlighted in the available information and a remediation schedule will be provided as well as the tag out date of the device.

Appendix A

- Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Amendment Act of 2017, DC Code 22-0125
<https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/22-21>
- The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), passed by Congress in 1974 and amended in 1986, 1996 and 2011;
<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-safe-drinking-water-act>
- Lead and Copper Rule – Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR Part 141;
<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=531617f923c3de2cbf5d12ae4663f56d&mc=true&node=sp40.23.141.i&rgn=div6>
- Council of the District of Columbia Healthy Schools Act of 2010, DC Law 18-209, Section 38-825.01(a)(1)(E);
<https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/18-209>
- *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools*; EPA Guidance Document October 2018.
<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/epa-3ts-guidance-document-english.pdf>
- *Drinking Water Best Management Practices For Schools and Child Care Facilities Served by Municipal Water Systems*, EPA 816-B014-002
<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/P100HGM8.TXT?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=2011+Thru+2015&Docs=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=1&TocRestrict=n&Toc=&TocEntry=&QField=&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&InQFieldOp=0&ExtQFieldOp=0&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5Czyfiles%5CIndex%20Data%5C11thru15%5Ctxt%5C00000008%5CP100HGM8.txt&User=ANONYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=1&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&Display=hpfr&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1&SeekPage=x&ZyPURL>
- American Academy of Pediatrics, Prevention of Childhood Lead Toxicity Report (Pediatrics Volume 138, No. 1, July 2016)
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/1/e20161493>
- *Summary of the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act and Frequently Asked Questions*, EPA Guidance Document 2013.
<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/section-1417-safe-drinking-water-act-prohibition-use-lead-pipes-solder-and>
- *How to Identify Lead Free Certification Marks for Drinking Water System & Plumbing Products*, Brochure, produced by the EPA
<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P100LVYK.txt>