

Lead Testing Update – May 26, 2020

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 response, lead water testing is currently only available to new providers applying for a license to operate.

Existing childcare providers re-opening on or after June 1, 2020 should take steps to ensure all water systems and fixtures used for cooking, drinking, or teeth brushing (i.e. drinking fountains, kitchen sinks, etc.) are safe to use after an extended period of non-routine operation.

For existing providers that have already received lead test kits and are still waiting to collect water samples:

- **Do not** collect samples until further notice
- Keep your test kits and make sure bottles are unopened and stored in a dry location

We will notify you when lead testing becomes available for all providers.

For more information about re-opening, please see the [Health Guidance for Childcare Programs, Summer Programs and Afterschool Program](#).

For specific questions about lead testing, please contact leadchildcare@vermont.gov or your CDD Childcare Business Technician.

Frequently Asked Questions

My program is now open after an extended period of closure that resulted in non-routine operation. Can I collect my samples right away?

No, do not collect water samples even if you already have your test kits.

Before re-opening, providers are encouraged to work with their building managers to make sure fresh water is being brought in throughout the building. For more information about maintaining or restoring water quality in buildings, please click [here](#).

The Health Department recommends removing and cleaning the aerators, where applicable. Removal of debris or sediment from the aerators is a good routine maintenance practice.

If testing can resume soon, please wait 2 to 3 weeks after re-opening to establish normal usage before collecting water samples for lead testing.

I already have my lead test kits. Can I collect my samples and send them in?

Do not collect water samples even if you already have your test kits. Please hold on to your kits, keeping bottles unopened and stored in a dry location.

I recently submitted post-remediation actions in the testing portal with my CDD Child Care Business Technician. When will I receive my follow-up test kits?

Follow-up test kits are not being processed by the Health Department Laboratory at this time.

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I already began flushing my remediated taps in preparation for follow-up testing. Should I continue flushing these taps?

No, the Health Department recommends stopping post-remediation flushing at this time. If you are re-opening after an extended period of closure, please follow the recommended flushing protocol.

I still haven't received my lead test results. When should I expect them?

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 response, water samples collected for lead testing and received by the Health Department Laboratory have been preserved and are not being analyzed at this time. We anticipate providers will receive their results within three to six months from the date the samples were received at the lab. However, this timeline may change. No further action is needed by you while you wait to receive your lead test results.