

## Lead Testing Update – June 23, 2020

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 response, schools scheduled to conduct initial lead testing after March 18, 2020 will resume testing during the 2020-2021 academic year. The Health Department will notify schools when they have been rescheduled.

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

- **Do not** collect water samples until further notice.
- Keep your test kits until your rescheduled testing period.
- Make sure the bottles are unopened and stored in a dry location.

Post-remediation follow-up testing is now available and will be performed by an external certified drinking water laboratory. The Health Department will notify eligible schools directly.

For specific questions, please contact [leadschool@vermont.gov](mailto:leadschool@vermont.gov).

### Frequently Asked Questions

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

**Do not collect water samples** even if you have already received test kits. Wait until you hear from the Health Department. Please hold on to your test kits until you have been re-scheduled for testing.

#### **I recently submitted post-remediation actions in the testing portal and received an email telling me to flush these remediated taps immediately for three weeks. Should I be following these instructions?**

Yes, please begin flushing your taps. Follow up testing is now available for schools that have completed permanent post-remediation actions.

#### **I already began flushing my school's remediated taps in preparation for follow-up testing. Should I continue flushing these taps?**

If your school reported post-remediation actions before June 24, 2020, the Health Department will notify you about your follow-up testing dates. If your school is eligible to collect samples, please make sure you finish the recommended three weeks of flushing before you receive your kits. If your school reported post-remediation actions on or after June 24, 2020, please follow the instructions in the automated email you received.

#### **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 before school dismissal have been preserved and are not being analyzed by the Health Department Laboratory at this time. We anticipate schools will receive their results within three to six months from the date the samples were received at the lab. However, this timeline may change.

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### **My school is now open after an extended period of closure that resulted in non-routine operation. Can I begin testing right away?**

If you received your lead test kits before June 24, 2020, please do not collect any samples until you are notified by the Health Department.

In general, please wait 2 to 3 weeks after re-opening to establish normal usage before collecting water samples for lead testing.

Before collecting any water samples, schools are encouraged to perform comprehensive flushing immediately before or soon after re-opening to make sure fresh water is being brought in throughout the building. Follow these steps:

1. Start with fixtures nearest to where the water comes into the building.
2. Turn on those fixtures and let them run until the water gets cold.
3. Follow the flow of water through the building, turning on each tap and running it until the water gets and stays cold before moving on to the next tap.

As part of this flushing, we recommend removing and cleaning the aerators, where applicable. Removal of debris or sediment from the aerators is a good routine maintenance activity.

If you are conducting initial testing, please wait to be notified by the Health Department before collecting any samples.