



Lori A. Weaver
Interim Commissioner

Patricia M. Tilley
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301
603-271-4524 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4524
Fax: 603-271-8705 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964
www.dhhs.nh.gov

Lead in School Drinking Water
Provider Guidance: Children Under the Age of Six Years Old

With increased testing of drinking water in school and daycare facilities across NH, healthcare providers may be contacted by parents/guardians with questions regarding possible health effects of lead in water and testing their children for lead elevations.

While lead in drinking water is a source of concern and can increase a child's overall lead burden, leading to harmful health effects, **lead-based paint chips and dust remain the most significant exposure to lead.**

It is important to recognize that infants who drink formula and eat baby food mixed with water containing lead are ingesting much more lead than children who receive most of their nourishment through food.

Although NH law requires lead testing in all children at ages 1 and 2, healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to offer additional lead testing WITHIN ONE MONTH for any child less than 6 years old, in the following instances:

- The amount of lead in drinking water at the child's school or daycare facility exceeds the maximum limit of 5 parts-per-billion ($\mu\text{g/L}$), unless the child has been screened for lead within one month of the water test completion at the facility.
- Child is ingesting formula powder and/or baby food mixed with drinking water that contains 5 parts-per-billion ($\mu\text{g/L}$) lead or higher.
- Parent/guardian is requesting a blood lead test.
- Child has not previously been tested for elevated blood lead
- Direct parents/guardians to <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/drinking-water/lead/schools-and-child-care-programs/view-results> to review daycare/school water testing results.
- Direct parents/guardians to <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/drinking-water/lead/schools-and-child-care-programs/communicate-and-take-action> to review corrective actions that daycares/schools are required to take.

For additional guidance or questions, call 1-800-897-LEAD (5323) or email LeadRN@dhhs.nh.gov