

Date

Name

? District

Address

Address

Dear Mr. Superintendent,

In light of current events relating to lead in drinking water, a concern has been expressed at the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) relating to the possibility of lead contamination occurring in Utah's schools' water distribution systems. There is specific concern for older schools which may have been plumbed with lead pipes. The UDOH has a statutory obligation to ensure that schools meet sanitary and environmental fitness standards. The UDOH wants to ensure that children are protected from unnecessary environmental exposures to toxic chemicals.

UDOH is aware of some schools where the lead levels in the drinking water exceed acceptable whenever the pH of the incoming potable water is not adequately monitored or controlled by the local water system operator. UDOH wants to find out how widespread this problem may be throughout the state.

To this end, we are asking a few simple questions, and hope that you can reply after consulting with your principals and facility managers.

1. Are you aware of any schools in your district that were built, whole or in part, before 1987?
2. Have your schools had instances where lead was found in the drinking water? If so, how were you made aware of the issue?
3. What can UDOH do to help your district and schools insure that the drinking water in your schools meets standards for lead?

We invite you to respond by email at chrisnelson@utah.gov or by mail to:

Chris Nelson
Environmental Sanitation Program
P.O. Box 142104
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2104.

We welcome any comments or suggestions on this matter. Thank you for your help.