



Frequently Asked Questions about Lead in Schools

EPA has prepared a list of frequently asked questions about the 3T program and lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. Below are some of the more common questions and their answers.

1. What is EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities?

The 3Ts was developed to assist schools and childcare facilities test their drinking water for lead. User-friendly tools help these facilities implement voluntary testing programs.

2. Are schools and child care facilities required to test for lead in drinking water?

There are no federal regulations that require schools or childcare facilities to test their drinking water for lead. With the passage of H.B.21, however, all schools in Utah are now required by state law to test their drinking water for lead before December 31, 2023. [WIIN Act funding](#) can help pay for this testing. While they are not required, childcare facilities can still use this funding to have their water tested as well, and they are strongly encouraged to do so.

3. How do I find out if my child's school has tested the drinking water for lead?

Residents can find the results of ongoing sampling at Utah schools on the DDW online drinking water database [WaterLink](#).

4. Are public water systems required to implement a 3Ts program?

No, [public water systems](#) are not federally required to implement a 3Ts program, but they can provide voluntary support and technical guidance to schools.



5. *Are states required to implement a 3Ts program?*

No, states are not federally required to implement a 3Ts program. However, DDW strongly encourages schools and childcare facilities to test for lead in their drinking water and request WIIN Act funding to help pay for testing.

6. *Is lead in drinking water the only potential source of lead exposure for kids?*

Children can be exposed to lead from paint, dust, soil, air, and food as well as drinking water.

7. *What should I do if I am concerned about my child's exposure to lead?*

If you are concerned about your child's exposure to lead, contact your health provider to learn more about blood lead testing.

8. *What is the action level for remediation for lead in schools and child care facilities?*

There is no known safe level of lead in drinking water. DDW has chosen an action level of 5 parts per billion as an achievable standard for mitigating lead levels in schools.

9. *Where should samples be taken at schools and child care facilities?*

Samples should be collected at locations that are used for drinking water. These may include water fountains, kitchen sinks used for food prep, staff room sinks, classroom drinking fountains, and outside spigots used by student athletes.

10. *Who should collect 3Ts Samples?*

Someone trained in the 3Ts sampling protocol can collect samples. DDW is available to provide technical assistance to school staff collecting drinking water samples.

11. *When should samples be collected?*

Samples should be collected before the facility opens or any water used.

12. *What can schools and child care facilities do if they find lead?*

Solutions to address elevated lead levels can be made on a short-term or long-term basis. EPA provides [recommendations](#) for immediate steps, short-term control measures, and permanent control measures.

13. *How often should a school test for lead in its drinking water?*

While EPA doesn't recommend a set frequency for testing, it does recommend that schools document sampling frequency and make it a regular part of building operations.