



# Prepare for Lead Testing: Fall 2021

The Maine Legislature passed a law requiring **all school drinking and cooking water fixtures be tested for lead**. All schools will either need to work with their local water professional or use the provided training materials to identify water sampling locations, collect water samples, coordinate with the designated laboratory, report results, and follow up with plans/procedures/actions based on the sampling results. Schools should designate someone for this responsibility.

Samples can be ordered on **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**. To begin preparing for your sampling, **visit our website at [www.medwp.com/schools.html](http://www.medwp.com/schools.html) to download instructions.**

## Communication is Key

**Before** you begin sampling for lead in your school's drinking water, it's recommended that you communicate your efforts to parents. Make it known that by collecting lead water samples, your school is working toward creating a healthier and safer learning environment for students.

*Staying ahead with your messaging is proactive and builds trust.*

*When you fall behind on your messaging, you may look defensive.*

Attached to this flyer is a template your school can use to develop your messaging.

# Working to Make a Safer School

During the 2021/2022 academic year, our school will test our drinking water fixtures for lead in accordance with a new Maine law. All fixtures in our school that are used for drinking or preparing food will be tested and results will be shared with parents, students, and staff.

Testing for lead will help us create a safer environment for our students, as lead exposure can result in serious developmental health effects, particularly in younger children who are more sensitive to the effects of lead. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) both agree there is no known safe level of lead.

Lead typically enters drinking water from plumbing and/or water fixtures, which if they contain lead material, can dissolve into the building's water. Lead rarely is found in source water, such as from a well or water district.

If you have any questions about testing in our school, contact

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

To learn more about school lead testing in Maine, visit the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program website at [www.medwp.com/schools.html](http://www.medwp.com/schools.html)