

Testimony on Testing and Remediation for Lead in Schools and Child Care Programs
Senate Education
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February 17, 2022

The deadline for the first round of testing for lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities was December 31, 2021. In all, 98% of schools and 98% of non-school based childcare facilities successfully completed testing. Not all schools were tested because there were some (~35) that were either closed, exempt (e.g., no water), postponed due to construction (e.g., water not working), or were a sub-entity of another school (and therefore tested as part of the other school). There are <10 schools and < 20 childcares that have not completed testing but many are in various stages of completion. For example, their samples have been shipped to the lab but not received yet or they will be collecting samples soon. We will continue to work with the remaining schools and childcares.

Seventy-six percent (76%) of schools and 14% of non-school based childcare facilities had at least one tap with lead levels at or above the action level of 4 ppb. Bottle fillers consistently had the lowest lead levels compared to other fixture types. Sinks were the most common tap tested and had among the highest lead levels. Six sinks had results greater than 1,000 ppb, one exceeded 25,000 ppb. Lead results for individual schools and childcare facilities are available on the [results website](#).

Despite an action level lower than most states, successful remediation was possible without incurring large expenses. The most common remediation actions were fixture replacement (54%), removal from service (16%), and point-of-use filter installation (8%). Remediation costs were less than \$500 per tap 90% of the time. An estimated 67 schools and 17 childcares have submitted reimbursement requests so far. A large number estimated 180 schools and 44 childcares, remain eligible for remediation reimbursement but have not yet submitted a request.

Samples were collected from than 15,000 taps by school and childcare staff. Vermont stopped thousands of kids from ingesting lead at hundreds of schools and many childcares throughout the state. A more detailed report is being developed and should be available this spring.