

## **FAQ on Lead Testing for Day Care Centers, Day Care Homes and Group Day Care Homes:**

### **What:**

Lead testing of water in licensed day care centers, day care homes and group day care homes constructed on or before January 1, 2000 that serve children ages birth to six years,

### **Why:**

Recent legislation (225 ILCS 10/5.9; PA 99-0922) requires lead testing of water for all day care centers, day care homes, and group day care homes that serve children ages birth to six years that were constructed on or before January 1, 2000. The Department of Children and Family Services was required to develop new licensing Rules to implement this new law. Across the state, several agencies have been working to address this very serious problem. Health experts have determined that there is NO acceptable level of lead contamination for children. Check out Illinois Department of Public Health's Lead Information website for more information:

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-in-water>

**When: The new Rule is effective January 1, 2019.**

**You must complete and return the Survey regardless of how old your home or center is.** It is important that for the health and safety of the day care children, as well as your own, that you are diligent in researching your home's construction date and provide accurate information. Failure to do so may result in a recommendation to change the status of your day care home license. You must report your home or center's age with a date that includes the day, month and year of construction, for example, 06/15/1955.

**If your home or center will require testing** and you have not already made arrangements with an IEPA laboratory or an IEPA-certified laboratory, you should do so now. Testing is required to be completed by 5-1-19. If you are required to test, the results and, if needed, a mitigation plan must be submitted to your local licensing office **within 120 days of receipt of the test results**. Even if all the results are 2.00 ppb or lower, you should submit your results. Since the damage caused by lead exposure has life-altering effects and impacts very young children most significantly, DCFS must identify facilities where children are being exposed to high lead levels as soon as possible.

**All facilities required to test their drinking water shall submit their results to their local licensing office and shall post the results in a location where parents can easily see them.**

### **How do I test my water?**

Test results will only be accepted from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) laboratory or those laboratories that are currently certified by the IEPA to test for lead in drinking water. Not all labs carry this certification from IEPA. The link below will direct you to the list of laboratories currently certified in Illinois to test lead in drinking water. The link is also available on the DCFS Sunshine Page under the "News" tab in the "Lead Testing of Water" section. You may also obtain a printed list by calling the Day Care Information Line at 1-877-746-0829.

<http://www.iasb.com/pdf/ILCertifiedLabsLead.pdf>

You can find the testing instructions that were provided by IEPA to the certified labs by clicking here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/citizens/citizens-information/in-your-home/Documents/Lead%20Testing%20for%20DCFS%20Day%20Care%20Facilities.pdf>

The lab you select will be able to provide you with specific instructions on their methods for how to collect samples and how to submit your samples to the lab for testing. You will be drawing two samples from each water source. There will be a first draw taken after “stagnation” (a specific, lengthy period of no water running at all) and then one or more samples taken after “flushing” (running the water for a specified period of time). You will submit the samples from each source of water for cooking or drinking—these may include the kitchen faucet, bathroom faucets, drinking fountains, bubblers, etc. Don’t forget your refrigerator’s ice/water dispenser. You will not be expected to submit samples from bathtubs, showers, or outside faucets unless they are routinely used as a source of drinking water.

**What if my center is located within a school?** If your facility is located in a school building for which ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) has oversight, testing results from the school may be submitted as long as it is clear that the water sources for the day care program have been tested at the 2.0 ppb parameters and results of 2.0 ppb or less were found for each source. Test parameters for day cares were set at 2.0 ppb on the advice of the Illinois Department of Public Health because day cares serve younger children who are more vulnerable to the negative effective of lead on their developing brains and overall health.

**What do I do when my test results are returned?** If you are required to test, you must post your results for parents to easily see and send a copy of the results to your licensing representative. If any of the test results are 2.01 ppb or higher, you must develop a written mitigation plan which is posted in your home or center and submitted to your licensing representative and you must take mitigation action. You must immediately develop an interim plan to insure you are using safe water for cooking and drinking while you are undertaking more stringent or lengthy mitigation activity.

#### **Lead in Water Mitigation Strategies for Daycares:**

There are numerous mitigation strategies that you can undertake. You must take immediate steps to provide safe water to the children. Mitigation strategies depend on many variables and day cares may need to implement various and multiple steps to mitigate lead hazards in water. Please understand that your DCFS Day Care Licensing Representative cannot answer any specific questions on mitigation. Illinois Department of Public Health, regional IDPH Lead Specialists, your local Health Department, or certified experts may be able to provide you with answers or recommendations.

**The following are common mitigation strategies when lead in water lab results are positive for lead (2.01parts per billion or higher). These are not intended to be all- inclusive:**

1. Immediate mitigation steps, use:
  - Bottled water if it can be documented as having 2.00 ppb or less lead content.
  - Point-of-Use filters, approved by National Sanitation Federation (NSF)
  - Distilled water
  - Water purified by reverse osmosis

## 2. Remove Problem Fixtures

- Replace any fixtures in the daycare that test positive for lead.
- Fixtures include:
  - Kitchen sink faucet
  - Bathroom faucets
  - Refrigerator and Freezer water lines for water and ice dispensing
  - Any potable water sources

## 3. Manual Flushing

Flushing is a method whereby fresh water may be delivered from the water main by flushing or running an adequate amount of water through the plumbing system in order to maintain fresh (safe) drinking water at all times. Lead concentrations can increase the longer the water is in contact with the pipes or plumbing fixtures that contain lead. Reducing the water age (how long water 'sits' in the pipes) can reduce lead levels in the water. Flushing can also increase the amount of orthophosphate in the pipes. Orthophosphate is a chemical added to the water by the municipal water treatment system and coats the inside the pipes to reduce the amount of corrosion caused by water. This can result in lower lead levels in the water.

- How to Flush:
  - Locate the fixtures farthest from the point of entry of the water service to the building and flush them for 10 minutes each morning
  - Open all fixtures used for cooking and drinking and run the water for 2 minutes or until the water temperature becomes cold.
- Reminder: Only use cold water when cooking; hot water heaters can have elevated levels of lead and other particulates.

## 4. Installation of mechanical automatic flushing devices

## 5. Lead Service Line Replacement

- Replacing the lead service line to the home to reduce amounts of lead in the water

**Training:** Per the new law, all day care applicants and licensees must also submit a certificate of completion of lead safety training. The training certificate must verify the training covered the following two topics:

1. Mitigation Plans
2. Impact of lead exposure.

As training resources are identified, we will link to a list of providers on the Sunshine Website, which can be found here:

<https://sunshine.dcf.illinois.gov/Content/Licensing/LeadTesting.aspx>

**Day Care Home and Group Day Care Home Lead Testing Questionnaire**

This questionnaire must be completed and returned to your licensing representative. Even if you care for only school-age children, or you know your home was constructed after January 1, 2000, you must complete and return this questionnaire.

Provider ID/License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES NO**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Does your license age range include children from Birth through 6 years?**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Was your home constructed on or before January 1, 2000?**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I understand that if the answer to both of the above questions is yes, I must submit results of water testing for lead.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **On what date was your home constructed?**  
Mo. Day Year

**How did you verify the construction date of your home?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Title Search

\_\_\_\_\_ Checked Deed

\_\_\_\_\_ Asked Landlord or Building Owner

\_\_\_\_\_ (other): \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this questionnaire to your licensing representative. A list of office addresses is included in the packet.**

**Please insure that testing, if required, is conducted by an IEPA-certified lab.**

## Day Care Center Lead Testing Questionnaire

This questionnaire must be completed and returned to your licensing representative. Even if you care for only school-age children, or you know your building was constructed after January 1, 2000, you must complete and return this questionnaire.

Provider ID/License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### YES NO

\_\_\_\_\_ Does your license age range include children from Birth through 6 years?

\_\_\_\_\_ Was your building constructed on or before January 1, 2000?

\_\_\_\_ On what date was your building constructed (entire building,  
Mo. Day Year not remodeling or construction of just the portion that houses  
the child care program)?

### How did you verify the construction date of the building housing your center?

\_\_\_\_\_ Title Search

\_\_\_\_\_ Checked Deed

\_\_\_\_\_ Asked Landlord or Building Owner

\_\_\_\_\_ (other): \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this questionnaire to your licensing representative. A list of office addresses is included in the packet.**

**Please insure that testing, if required, is conducted by an IEPA-certified lab.**

<b>LABORATORY NAME</b>	<b>FOT</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>
Illinois EPA Laboratory	DWI	825 North Rutledge	Springfield	IL	tom.weiss@illinois.gov	(217) 782-9780
Alpha Analytical Mansfield MA	DWI	320 Forbes Blvd.	Mansfield	MA	ghall@alphalab.com	(508) 898-9220
American Water Central Laboratory	DWI	1115 South Illinois St.	Belleville	IL	bill.deckelmann@amwater.com	(618) 222-4053
ARRO Laboratory, Inc.	DWI	P.O. Box 686	Joliet	IL	joan.serdar@arrolab.com	(815) 727-5436
Carbondale Central Laboratory	DWI	2401 South McLafferty Road	Carbondale	IL	kcole@ci.carbondale.il.us	(618) 457-8613
City of Chicago, Water Purification Laboratories	DWI	1000 East Ohio St.	Chicago	IL	alan.stark@cityofchicago.org	(312) 744-7733
Culligan Analytical Laboratory	DWI	9399 West Higgins Road, Suite 1100	Rosemont	IL	rcook@culligan.com	(847) 430-1219
Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	DWI	8100 North Austin Ave.	Morton Grove	IL	sstankevicius@emt.com	(847) 324-3341

Environmental Science Corp.	DWI	12065 Lebanon Rd.	Mt. Juliet	TN		(615) 773-9755
Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.	DWI	110 South Hill Street	South Bend	IN	TraciChlebowski@eurofinsUS.com	(574) 233-4777
Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc. - CA	DWI	750 Royal Oaks Dr., Suite 100	Monrovia	CA	davidtripp@eurofinsUS.com	(626) 386-1158
First Environmental Laboratory	DWI	1600 Shore Rd. # D	Naperville	IL	firstinfo@firstenv.com	(630) 778-1200
GEL Laboratories, LLC	DWI	2040 Savage Rd., P.O. Box 30712	Charleston	SC	tasha.horton@gel.com	(843) 556-8171
Lake County Environmental Laboratory	DWI	500 W. Winchester Rd. #103	Libertyville	IL	sladao@lakecountyil.gov	(847) 377-7744
McHenry Analytical Water Laboratory, Inc.	DWI	4314-A, Crystal Lake Rd	McHenry	IL	mark@mchenrylab.com	(815) 344-4044
Microbac Laboratories, Inc.	DWI	250 West 84th Drive	Merrillville	IN	microbac_info@microbac.com	(219) 769-8378
National Testing Laboratories	DWI	556 South Mansfield	Ypsilanti	MI	efujs@ntllabs.com	(734) 483-8333

Pace Analytical Services, Inc. - FL	DWI	8 East Tower Circle	Ormond Beach	FL	bob.dempsey@pacelabs.com	(386) 676-4803
Pace Analytical Services, LLC. - MN	DWI	1700 Elm Street SE Suite 200	Minneapolis	MN	Sarah.cherney@pacelabs.com	(612) 607-6352
PDC Laboratories, Inc.	DWI	2231 W. Altorfer Drive	Peoria	IL	sraper@pdclab.com	(309) 683-1736
Prairie Analytical Systems, Incorporated	DWI	1210 Capital Airport Drive	Springfield	IL	dbillings@prairieanalytical.com	(217) 753-1148
Rock River Water Reclamation District	DWI	3333 Kishwaukee Street	Rockford	IL	mjohnson@rrwr.dst.il.us	(815) 387-7523
SGS Accutest - Dayton	DWI	2235 U.S. Route 130	Dayton	NJ	nicholas.straccione@sgs.com	(732) 329-0200
SGS Accutest - Marlborough	DWI	50 De'Angelo Drive	Marlborough	MA	trent.temperly@sgs.com	(508) 481-6200
STAT Analysis Corporation	DWI	2242 West Harrison Street	Chicago	IL	frank@statanalysis.com	(312) 733-0551
Suburban Laboratories, Inc.	DWI	1950 South Batavia Ave., Suite 150	Geneva	IL	dan@suburbanlabs.com	(708) 544-3260
Summit	DWI	3310 Win Street	Cuyahoga Falls	OH	rtand@settek.com	(330) 253-



Environmental Technologies, Inc.						8211
Teklab, Incorporated	DWI	5445 Horseshoe Lake Rd.	Collinsville	IL	cbogner@teklabinc.com	(618) 344-1004
TEST, Inc.	DWI	2323 4th St.	Peru	IL	tmccauley@testinc.com	(815) 224-1650
TestAmerica Buffalo	DWI	10 Hazelwood Drive	Amherst	NY	david.orlowski@testamericainc.com	(716) 504-9832
TestAmerica Chicago	DWI	2417 Bond Street	University Park	IL	nadine.jernberg@testamericainc.com	(708) 534-5200
TestAmerica Savannah	DWI	5102 LaRoche Avenue	Savannah	GA	benard.kirkland@testamericainc.com	(912) 354-7858