

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

POLICY GUIDE 2017.13

LEAD TESTING OF WATER IN LICENSED DAY CARE FACILITIES

DATE: December 6, 2017
TO: DCFS Day Care Licensing Staff
FROM: Beverly J. Walker, Acting Director
EFFECTIVE: Immediately

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy Guide is to inform all day care licensing staff and day care providers of recent legislation [225 ILCS 10/5.9] that requires lead testing of water for all day care homes, group day care homes and day care centers that serve children ages birth to six years, constructed on or before January 1, 2000. In the coming months, day care licensing rules and procedures will be amended to reflect these statutory changes.

This Policy Guide is effective immediately

II. PRIMARY USERS

The primary users of this Policy Guide are Daycare Licensing Staff and licensed day care homes, group day care homes and day care centers.

III. BACKGROUND

Health experts have determined that there is no acceptable level of lead contamination for children. While lead has been found in only a small number of municipal water supplies, it can be found inside pipes and fixtures.

The Illinois Department of Public Health’s Lead Information website provides more information: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/illinoislead/faq.htm>.

IV. DEFINITION

“Water Profile” means a building’s water heater(s), source of water and water supply lines.



V. LEAD TESTING OF WATER

All current licensees shall submit the construction date of their home or center to their local day care licensing office.

All new applicants shall submit the construction date of their home or center and lead testing results completed within the six months prior to submitting a complete application for homes or centers constructed on or before January 1, 2000.

All homes and centers constructed on or before January 1, 2000 are required to test all drinking water sources: kitchen and bathroom faucets, water fountains and bubblers, handwashing sinks in infant and toddler rooms. Bathtubs and showers are not required to be tested.

Testing is required to be conducted by an IEPA approved laboratory with test results sent to the licensee or license applicant.

Licensee must post lead testing results in a prominent location in the home or center and send a copy to the Licensing Representative.

All homes and centers required to conduct lead testing shall submit lead test results to their local licensing office by March 31, 2018.

Licensing Clerical staff shall enter construction date data and lead test results (Yes means lead is present, No means lead is not present) into IMSA.

Licensees and license applicants shall have lead testing information in enrollment materials to inform parents if testing is required for their home or center, where testing results are posted in their facility and what mitigation actions are in effect.

A Mitigation and implementation plan is required if lead is present.

Retesting is required to verify efficacy of mitigation actions no later than six months following the identification of the presence of lead and the development of the mitigation plan, then retesting annually until at least two consecutive post mitigation tests indicate no lead is present in the facility's water.

No further testing is required if two consecutive post-mitigation tests indicate no lead present, unless the facility's water profile changes.

No testing is required if the initial lead testing indicates no lead present, unless the facility's water profile changes.

The Department reserves the right to require testing of any facility, regardless of the date of construction, mitigation action or previous test results upon suspicion of misrepresenting the construction date, submitting false or altered testing results, failing to follow mitigation plans or other actions which may compromise the health and welfare of children.

Homes or centers that fail to insure testing and adequate mitigation when necessary may be subject to enforcement action, up to and including, revocations of or refusal to renew the license.

VI. TRAINING

At the issuance of this Policy Guide, training is in development. Once available, licensees will be notified of training availability and will have 6 months in which to complete the required training.

VII. REVISED FORMS

The following forms have been updated to include a construction date:

CFS 597, Application for Child Care Facility License (Rev 12/2017)

CFS 597-DCI, Application for Day Care-Group Day Care Home License (Rev 12/2017)

CFS 597-DCR, Application for Day Care-Group Day Care Home License – Renewal
(Rev 12/2107)

The revised forms are available to staff on the Templates drive and can be ordered in the usual matter.

VIII. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this Policy Guide may be directed to the Office of Child and Family Policy at 217-524-1983 or via Outlook at OCFP – Mailbox. Non Outlook users may e-mail questions to cfpolicy@idcfs.state.il.us.

IX. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File this Policy Guide immediately following **Part 406: Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes, Part 407: Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers and Rules 408: Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes.**

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