

# WATER QUALITY TESTING PROGRAM

6/17/19



# CPS Water Quality Program Overview

## CPS Water Quality Testing Program

The health and safety of our students, staff and community is the district's top priority. Lead can be found nationally in pipes, faucets, and interior plumbing fixtures and materials, and we believe routine water testing is an important and necessary action to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

In 2016, CPS began a district-wide water testing program out of an abundance of caution to ensure water in our facilities met all federal, state, and local regulations.

CPS collaborated with the Chicago Department of Water Management (CDWM) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to establish testing procedures and protocols that help ensure the quality of potable water in schools.

In addition to state requirements, CPS also took the additional step to test water quality on an ongoing basis, and began a second comprehensive testing program starting in Spring 2019 through SY2022.

# CPS Water Quality Program Overview

## Federal and State Water Quality Guidelines

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidance, lead concentrations in drinking water should not exceed 15 parts per billion (ppb).

While no action is required by the EPA if a water source produces a sample that reads below 15 ppb, out of an abundance of caution, the district will inspect and address every water fixture in a CPS facility that produces a water sample with a reading at or above 5 ppb. Inoperable fixtures found during inspection will also be removed or repaired.

Illinois Public Act 99-0922

CPS has completed all testing requirements set forth in the law to have all potable water sources tested by 2018.

The Act requires parents and guardians of students be **notified** of lead results greater than or equal to five parts per billion (5 ppb).

CPS Lead Testing results can be found at [www.cps.edu/WaterQualityTesting](http://www.cps.edu/WaterQualityTesting).

# CPS Water Quality Program Overview

## 2019 Water Quality Testing Program Phases

**Year 1**

ES & HS campuses:

~54

**END OF 2019  
SCHOOL YEAR**

**Year 2**

ES & HS campuses:

~210

**END OF 2020  
SCHOOL YEAR**

**Year 3**

ES & HS campuses:

~132

**END OF 2021  
SCHOOL YEAR**

**Year 4**

ES & HS campuses:

~132

**END OF 2022  
SCHOOL YEAR**

# CPS Water Quality Program Overview

## What This Means For Your School

Water Quality Testing Schedules for the current school year will be posted on [cps.edu/waterqualitytesting](https://cps.edu/waterqualitytesting).

Your principal and building engineer will be notified several days before the start of testing and all testing will occur before the start of school.

Testing will be conducted at an EPA-certified lab, and full test results will be shared with you and your school community along with a letter explaining the results.

Test results will also be posted on [cps.edu/waterqualitytesting](https://cps.edu/waterqualitytesting).

Any fixtures that produces a water sample equal to or above 5 ppb will be taken out of service for repair or replacement.

If you would like to learn more about lead in drinking water, please visit:

| Center for Disease Control and Prevention-Lead ([www.cdc.gov/lead](http://www.cdc.gov/lead))

| EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water ([www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water))

# Addendum

## Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Definition and Allowable Standards

Lead comes from many different sources: paint, soil, consumer products, and water, to name a few.

Drinking water in Chicago comes from Lake Michigan. The Great Lakes system is the largest source of fresh surface water in the world.

Lead enters drinking water when service pipes containing lead corrode. This is most commonly associated with chrome-plated brass faucets or fixtures connected with lead solder leaching into the water.

The amount of lead in water depends on the temperature of the water, how long the water sits in the pipes, the acidity and the types of minerals found in the water.

Buildings built before 1986 are at a greater risk of exposure due to lead being an allowable building material.

Per EPA's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), EPA's action level for lead in water is set at 15 parts per billion (ppb). IDPH requires notification for test results @ 5 ppb and higher.

# Addendum

## CPS Water Sampling Method

### Testing of water source outlets require:

All school water sources be unused for minimum 8 -18 hours.

If school has been inactive for more than 3 days, all potable water outlets are to be flushed completely the day prior to testing. Testing will occur on a day after a normal day of school activities.

### Five (5) 250mL sequential samples of cold water collected per water outlet described below—Totaling 1.25 Liters.

CPS surpasses SB550 requirements, which only requires two (2) 250mL sequential samples.

### Samples will be collected at only potable food and drink water sources, which include the following:

Pre-K & K classroom sinks, drinking fountains, water coolers, kitchen area & culinary sinks for food and drink preparation only, faculty lounges, nursing stations and health clinics.

Samples are sent to EPA Accredited Lead Testing Laboratories daily, with an estimated turnaround time of up to 4 weeks.

# Addendum

## Vendor Testing Details

Carnow Conibear & Associates has been selected as the Chicago Board of Education's Water Quality Testing Service consultant – February 2019 through August 31, 2023.

Depending on size of school campus, teams of 1 or 2 people will be used to conduct sampling.

Weekday testing will occur between 5 - 6 a.m. and conclude by start of school.

Vendors interview building engineer or custodial staff for specific information on the plumbing system at that school.



# Addendum

## Remediation Protocols: Developed in collaboration with CDWM

**Replacing or cleaning aerators or screens (if applicable) + 7 days of light flushing or running of cold water + 1 day of normal usage + 1 day for re-sampling**

### Remediation Steps / Minor Repairs / Major Repairs

- | If below 5 ppb, the fixture is placed back into service.
- | If above 5 ppb, the Building Engineer is to remove the supply lines, bubbler or faucet head (if present), repeat flushing protocol.
- | After flushing:
  - | If fixture is below 5 ppb, the building engineer will replace the supply line and either the bubbler or faucet head.
  - | If fixture is above 5 ppb, CPS' mechanical engineer consultant will assess the fixture and develop a remediation procedure to be followed.

### CPS Water Testing Application Notifications

- | Upon receipt of lead testing results, CPS' environmental consultant will enter the data into CPS' Oracle EAC system. Email notifications are sent directly to school stakeholders.