

# PROTECT STUDENTS FROM LEAD POISONING

## HOW CAN I HELP STUDENTS IN MY NH SCHOOL?



### WHERE ARE LEAD RISKS IN SCHOOLS?

Lead can be found in drinking water from lead pipes or fixtures, in lead-based paint chips or dust on walls, floors, windowsills, and bare soil (no vegetation) in children's play areas.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Children are especially vulnerable to lead because their developing bodies tend to absorb more lead from the environment. There is no safe level of lead and lead exposure can cause reduced IQ and attention span, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, kidney damage, hearing loss and central nervous system damage. Preventing lead exposure in early childhood is critical to improving academic performance.



### BLOOD LEAD LEVEL TEST

New Hampshire is a universal blood lead level testing state. All New Hampshire children must be tested twice, at 1 and again at 2 years old. Consider reviewing health forms and implementing a school policy to insure blood lead level tests for incoming students are documented along with immunization records.



### LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Sample all locations where water can be consumed by children. Remediate all locations where lead levels are 5 parts per billion or higher. Explore funding resources and requirements on back.



### LEAD PAINT AND DUST

- Identify chipping, flaking, peeling or lead friction surfaces in your pre-1978 school or child care facility.
- Hire a licensed Lead Abatement Contractor.
- When renovating or repairing a pre-1978 school, always use Lead-Safe Certified contractors. Ask your building's contractor for proof of lead-safe certification.
- Train maintenance staff in pre-1978 schools on lead-safe work practices by attending an 8-hour Renovate, Repair and Paint (RRP) training course.
- Tell parents about the risks of lead dust exposure and encourage them to hire a Lead-Safe Certified firm for their pre-1978 home renovations. EPA provides materials to educate parents about lead safety and the RRP Rule. Search for "EPA Lead Safe Outreach Materials."



### LEAD IN SOIL

Identify any areas of bare soil in children's play areas and have it analyzed for lead.

# LEAD REQUIREMENTS & RESOURCES

## DRINKING WATER TESTING AND REMEDIATION GRANT

Effective July 2018, New Hampshire's "Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning" law requires that schools test for lead in drinking water at all locations where it could be consumed by children. Any testing performed from 2016 to 2019 must be repeated every five years until at least 3 rounds of results meet compliance standards.

Visit the NH DES website ([www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)) "Lead in Drinking Water" section to access:



- Grant applications to fund 50% of lead remediation costs for all locations testing at 5 parts per billion (ppb) and above.
- Sample letter to communicate with parents and guardians.
- Guidance for lead removal remediation plans.
- List of accredited labs to test drinking water.

In 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published in-depth guidance to support schools with general "Training, Testing, and Taking Action" to reduce lead in drinking water. Find the Toolkit at: [www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts)

## LEAD PAINT AND DUST

Under EPA's new 2019 dust-lead hazard standards, lead is considered a hazard when lead in dust is equal to or exceeds 10 micrograms ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) per square foot on floors, and 100 micrograms of lead in dust per square foot on interior windowsills. If your school is considering removing lead hazards, please contact the NH Division of Public Health Services.

The Federal Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule protects children from lead dust that is inadvertently released by painting and renovation projects, especially in child occupied facilities built before 1978. The RRP Rule requires project managers and workers to:

- Complete EPA-certification and training.
- Follow lead-safe work practices.
- Notify building owners and occupants about lead-based paint risks before starting work.
- Maintain records documenting compliance with the RRP Rule.

Learn more at: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

## CONTACTS

### Drinking Water

NH DES: Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau  
Lead and Copper Program  
(603) 271-3108

email: [cynthia.klevens@des.nh.gov](mailto:cynthia.klevens@des.nh.gov)

### Lead Hazards

NH Division of Public Health Services  
Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
(800) 897-LEAD (5323)

email: [Leadinfo@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:Leadinfo@dhhs.nh.gov)

### EPA Region 1 Customer Call Center

Dial 617 918-1111 or 888 372-7341; press 3 to enter automated voicemail system; press 2 to leave a message concerning Lead Paint.

*This fact sheet was jointly created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES).*

