



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Commissioner

September 13, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
School Business Administrators
Charter School Leads
Renaissance School Project Leads

FROM: Robert L. Bumpus, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services

SUBJECT: Sampling for Lead in Drinking Water

In our continuing effort to inform all parties required to complete sampling for lead in drinking water in schools, the New Jersey Department of Education has created a webpage with information and resources, located at <http://www.nj.gov/education/lead/>. The website includes a link to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) technical guidance documents, which school officials are strongly encouraged to thoroughly review. These documents represent the technical guidance referred to in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(d)3 requiring of sampling for lead in drinking water in schools. Successful completion of this sampling program will require adherence to the guidelines. The website also includes a Frequently Asked Questions document with additional guidance on the program, and a link to the regulations adopted on July 13, 2016 addressing the program.

The NJDOE is partnering with the NJDEP to offer three regional full-day training sessions on "Lead Sampling in School Facilities" during the last week of September. Districts are encouraged to send a team of staff to ensure the extensive sampling requirements are understood. School districts will need a minimum of two staff members involved in the sampling process. During these sessions, NJDEP representatives and other experts will provide participants with the information necessary to prepare for and carry out a systematic sampling program for lead in drinking water at their facilities.

Each training session will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Register through the links below:

- **Monday, September 26 – Central Region**
 - Middlesex County Vocational-Technical School, 112 Rues Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
- **Tuesday, September 27 – Southern Region**
 - Hammonton High School, 556 Old Forks Road, Hammonton, NJ 08037
- **Wednesday, September 28 – Northern Region**
 - Mount Olive High School, 18 Corey Road, Flanders, NJ 07836

The NJDOE is developing procedures for submitting reimbursement requests, and expects to have the procedures in place by early October. As a reminder, the lead testing and analysis cost-reimbursement program is limited to the cost for completing the actual collecting, testing and analysis of the water sample by the laboratory and the delivery of results. Other costs, such as development of the lead sampling plan and any necessary remediation, are not eligible for reimbursement. For further information please refer to the NJDOE's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) online.

The NJDOE encourages all districts, charter schools, Renaissance School projects, approved private schools for students with disabilities, and state-funded early childcare facilities to investigate the cooperative pricing agreements from the several Educational Service Commissions across the state that have established, or plan to establish, cooperative pricing programs for the analysis of lead in drinking water. Using their services may result in a lower cost. Only nonprofit private entities and public entities such as municipalities and school districts are permitted to utilize cooperative pricing programs from Educational Service Commissions. For-profit approved private schools and early childcare facilities are not permitted to use these services.

The NJDOE has established an email address, leadtesting@doe.state.nj.us, for interested parties to submit questions. The NJDOE will continue to provide school officials with additional information on this important topic as soon as it becomes available, but we recommend that school officials regularly visit our website, as well as NJDEP's website, for any updates.

c: David C. Hespe, Commissioner
Senior Staff
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
State-funded Early Childcare Facilities