

Testing Drinking Water for Lead in Public Schools Project

Progress since last meeting: February 22, 2017

- Delivered sample bottles to eastern and southern districts. Many have already completed sampling and we should be able to finish up with those districts after the February break.
- Continue to send results to school districts as they are received using the approved letter template (on the project website – under the Advisory Committee tab).
- The approved template to assist schools to share information with parents as well as with a list of Actions that can be taken to reduce lead in water are sent with the results letters (both are on the website – Advisory Comm Tab).
- Developed a list of 27 daycares to invite to participate in testing. Those centers were selected because they were within 3 miles of a school with children with elevated blood lead levels and serve 100 children or more.
- Secured staff who could collect those samples if the daycares are willing to participate.
- Submitting a letter to request the participation of those daycare centers to RIDOH communications staff for review on 2/22/17. Once that is approved we will reach out to the centers to see if we can engage them in this process.
- Working with RIDOH staff to setup a database of results on the RIDOH website shortly (anticipated to go “live” around March 1).
- Continued adding data, both results from samples collected via the project and those of schools collected on their own).
- Currently approximately 420 results in that dataset.
- Since last meeting 2 additional schools had samples above the action limit. In both cases the schools were immediately contacted and offered re-sampling following remediation.
 - West Warwick – Maisie E. Quinn Elementary School water fountain, removed from service and scheduled for replacement.
 - Tiverton High School – sent email (during February break – no response yet).
- Had a conference call with RIDOH staff to discuss the contents, format and responsibility of the report to the General Assembly.
 - Updated and refined the report outline.
 - Formatting template and examples of other RIDOH reports to be sent from RIDOH communications staff by 2/22/17.
 - Confirmed the role of Sue Stableford to develop the Executive Summary.
 - Design and layout will be handled by RIDOH communications staff.
- Project website is continuing to be updated.

Next steps:

- Continuing to record and report results
- Continuing to gather results from districts that completed testing independently
- Engaging daycare centers
- Generating summaries of findings and recommendations
- Writing draft report to the General Assembly