

## Testing Drinking Water for Lead in Public Schools Project

### Progress since last meeting: January 20, 2017

- Finalized sampling strategy.
- Contract with RI Analytical finally approved.
  - Received first case of sample bottles for labeling and distribution.
  - Created simple sample chain of custody and bottle labels with RI Analytical and DOH input (<http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/SampleDataSheet-COC.docx> and <http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/LabelExamples.pdf>).
  - Established procedure for scheduling sample pick-ups and reporting.
- Worked with Sue Stableford to develop a letter to school superintendents and directors announcing the project and they could participate ([http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/RIDepartment\\_of\\_Health\\_Plans\\_for\\_LeadTesting.pdf](http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/RIDepartment_of_Health_Plans_for_LeadTesting.pdf).)
- RI DOH communications sent the letter as a pdf attachment to superintendents/directors on December 8th. School principals were CCed the letter so they would be aware of the project.
- School districts were asked to reply by 12/16/16 with their intentions to participate, provide data or opt out.
- Response was good with most districts having responded by that date. Nearly all respondents were planning to participate or provide data.
- Contacted those we hadn't heard from by email (12/20/16) and also priority districts by phone (12/21/16). Will continue contacting remaining districts/schools after the holiday.
- Created a notification and list of banned water coolers (<http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/WaterCoolerNotification.pdf>) which will be sent to schools as they are scheduled for sampling. We are asking for school staff to review all coolers to determine if they have any of the banned units and report that status to us. Sending that list in advance will allow staff to complete that review while they are determining which fixtures to sample.
- Worked with Sue Stableford and Bruce Hooke to create instructions for collecting samples (<http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/SchoolTestingInstructionsFinal.pdf>).
- Tested above with a pilot collection of the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center's six schools (5 buildings in Providence, 1 in Newport). Robert Pacheco, facilities manager helped to coordinate sampling and reviewed the procedures.
  - Dropped of labeled bottles and data sheets for all 6 schools on 12/13/16.
  - Bob collected samples, and informed us that they were done and that the instructions were clear and the procedures easy to follow.
  - Contacted RI Analytical to schedule a pick-up, which was done on 12/16/16.
  - Contacted RI Analytical on Monday, 12/19/16 to confirm receipt of the samples and to review the labeling and chain of custody – both were good. Except one sample was not recorded on the form. (Contacted Mr. Pacheco to correct that).
  - Learned is it important to remind local sample coordinators to ensure that ALL samples are recorded on the data sheet (as directed in the instructions).

- Results – one fixture was well above the action level, most others were less than 5 or below detection (<1 ppb).
  - Worked with Bob to remediate (via flushing) and re-sample (re-sample = 2.3 ppb)
- Began sending out sampling materials after the winter break.
- 300 Public Schools on Municipal Water (see map)
  - Completed lead testing on their own (that we know about) - 82
  - Contractor hired to complete lead testing - 17
  - Samples at the lab (as of 1/20/17) - 4
  - Data received from samples collected via this project (as of 1/20/17) - 31
  - Received bottles to sample (as of 1/20/17) - 40
  - Bottles ready to go - 9
  - Waiting to receive bottles - 43
  - Waiting for confirmation from - 9
  - Not responded regarding their participation yet - 54
  - Not planning to participate - 10 (various reasons)
- Worked with staff at Central Falls, which requested project staff collect samples in those schools, to sample.
- Delivered sample bottles to northern districts as well. We should be able to the sampling going strong after the break.
- Drafted templates for schools to use to inform parents that their district/school is participating in the project (with Sue Stableford).
- Sent the template with an email to school superintendents that had already been scheduled to begin sampling.
- Working with Valerie Preler to prioritize potential daycare center sampling. Using GIS, she has created 3 mile buffers around schools with children with elevated blood lead levels and identified which daycare centers are within those zones. Other prioritization criteria include:
  - Daycare center size (capacity)
  - Initial date of licensing (when they would last have had to be certified as lead-safe)
  - (Map available upon request.)
- Sue Stableford worked from materials and an example reporting letter to develop results reporting templates and actions to be taken to be sent to school superintendents, principles and district contacts.
- RIDOH communications has reviewed and approved the template.
- Sue Stableford working on the template for schools to use to report results.
- Letters to schools will begin going out when the template is approved.
- Database of results (both from samples collected via the project and by schools on their own) is being populated and will be posted on the RIDOH website shortly.
- Project website is continuing to be updated.
  - Resources are being added as appropriate.
  - An additional tab has been creates a clearinghouse of Communication Materials, the letters, sampling instructions, results templates, etc. developed for the project.