

How to Sample School Drinking Water Sources for Lead

① Get ready before you collect water samples:

- **Identify 3 commonly used drinking water outlets.**
 - ✓ Check with students and staff to find out which water fountains, coolers, or faucets children use most often for drinking water. If possible, choose one outlet used on each floor or wing of the school.
 - ✓ If a school kitchen faucet is used for cooking or drinking water, please be sure to collect a water sample from that faucet.
 - ✓ If a school houses a daycare center, please be sure to collect at least one water sample from that center.
 - ✓ If a section of a school is older or known to have older plumbing, please be sure to collect a water sample from that section.
 - ✓ If more than 3 drinking water outlets are commonly used or identified above as priority sampling locations, contact Project Director Elizabeth Herron to obtain extra testing supplies. email: eherron@uri.edu or Tel: 401-874-4552
- **Give each water testing outlet a name.** For example, you might label a drinking fountain this way: “Water fountain next to room 002.” If you have a building floor plan, mark it to show testing sites.
- **Choose a correct day and time to collect samples.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directs schools to collect water samples this way:
 - ✓ **Month/week:** When the school is being actively used – not during or right after vacation periods
 - ✓ **Day:** Tuesday through Friday mornings – not on Mondays after a weekend or longer break
 - ✓ **Time:** After 8 - 18 hours of stagnant water conditions when no water is used. In most schools this means samples should be collected first thing in the morning, around 6 am, after school has been closed for the night.
- **Have on hand:**
 - ✓ Bottles provided by the lab for taking water samples. DO NOT OPEN these until you’re ready to test.
 - ✓ A ballpoint pen or pen with ink that will not smear if wet.
 - ✓ A sturdy bin or box to store the samples until they are picked up.

Sample Bottle



over »

Sample Label

School: Main Street Elementary
Bottle 1

Location: fountain by room 002

Date: 2/16/17 / Time: 6:10 AM

■ **Fill out labels on sample bottles and the Drinking Water**

Sampling Sheet. Include on each label the name you've given the outlet, and the date and time of testing. Please PRINT so the lab can read the label. Use an ink pen that will not smear or "run" if wet.

IMPORTANT: Be sure that the sample numbers on each bottle match the numbers on the Sampling Sheet. *For example*, when you use Bottle #3, enter the information about that bottle on the line where Sample #3 is listed on the Sheet.

② Collect water samples in the bottles provided

Steps to follow with each water testing bottle:

Step 1: Holding the bottle in one hand, unscrew the cap and set it aside, inside up. Do not touch the inside of the cap with your fingers and do not let the neck of the bottle touch the tap.

Step 2: Hold the bottle under the tap or drinking fountain to collect the first water. Fill the bottle up to the shoulder. Do not let the bottle overflow.

Step 3: Replace the bottle cap and tighten.

Step 4: Turn off the water.

③ Finish up

- **Recheck the labels on all the bottles.** Make sure you have filled out each one so it's clear and complete.
- **Recheck the Drinking Water Sampling Sheet** and make sure it's clear and complete.
- **Put the bottles in a sturdy bin or box** and put them where they will be picked up.
- **Let Elizabeth Herron know when testing has been completed** so bottles can be picked up on time.

Questions? Contact: Elizabeth Herron, Project Director

Email: eherron@uri.edu

Tel: 401-874-4552

Project URL: <http://web.uri.edu/nemo/lead-in-water>

Thanks for helping to ensure safe drinking water for your school. Lab results of the lead testing and a list of schools participating will be sent to the school principal, superintendent, and the RI General Assembly. All results will also be made available to the public on the RI Department of Health website: www.health.ri.gov