

STRIDE Academy Lead in Drinking Water Plan

STRIDE Academy is conducting Lead in Water testing in an effort to identify the potential drinking water sources with high lead concentrations and provide the District with safe lead free drinking water.

To test for lead, samples are collected at the school in accordance with EPA and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines. The EPA and MDH has established the guideline for lead in school drinking water of 5 ppb (July 1, 2024).

To be proactive about the health and safety of STRIDE Academy's students and staff, STRIDE Academy is in the process of re-testing all drinking water sources. Testing will be conducted every 5 years.

Testing Methodology and Protocol

Purpose

The district goal is to provide lead safe drinking water sources throughout all its facilities. This will include identification of water sources that are considered drinking sources, water testing, and follow-up procedures.

Methodology

This program is modeled after the Minnesota Department of Health's "***Reducing Lead in Drinking Water: A Manual for Minnesota's Schools.***" The program identifies potable water sources, sources of lead, and outlines follow-up procedures for fixtures testing high in lead content.

Testing Protocol:

1. Sample collection is performed in the morning before school begins to obtain a "worst case" sample of the drinking water a person may consume from a fixture.
2. The water is the "first draw" of water from a fixture.
3. The sample collection size is 250 ml.
4. The samples are sent to a Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) approved lab for analysis or analyzed with an approved anodic stripping voltammetry method.
5. Test results should be at or below 5 parts per billion (ppb).
6. All drinking water sources shall be sampled every five years.

Drinking water sources include:

- Drinking fountains
- Classroom Sinks
- All kitchen area sources
- FACS Classroom
- All nurse/health area sources
- Water dispensers (bottle fillers)
- Additional sources may be added if they are identified as sources of consumption by the facility occupants

High Test Results

Fixtures testing above 5 ppb shall have a follow-up sample collected as outlined above AFTER the water has run for at least 15 seconds. If the sample analysis is at or below 5 ppb, this fixture is safe for drinking anytime provided it has been flushed for 15 seconds.

Fixtures failing the “flush test” shall be either turned off until replacement of the fixture or labeled as not recommended for consumption.

Corrective Action

If a water fixture is tested and found to be above 5 ppb they will be shut off and an “Out of Order” sign placed to make sure no one consumes the water until the problem is fixed. The Facilities Department remediates the fixtures that tested high for lead by replacing them with new fixtures or taking them out of service by removal.

Hydration Stations

To mitigate any high levels of lead found in drinking water fountains and to ensure that all the students and staff in the school have access to cold, filtered water, the District has purchased and installed hydration stations at the elementary building and at the high school.

How Can I Learn More?

For more information on lead in water, read the **Minnesota Department of Health's guide on reducing lead in water in schools.**

For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.