

**Subject:** Lead Testing in School Drinking Water -- Update During COVID-19 Response

Dear Superintendents and School Representatives:

Thank you for the work you are doing to protect your students, staff, and community in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We understand that your efforts in response to COVID-19 have and will continue to be priority. With respect to your responsibilities related to the Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Program (10 New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (10 NYCRR) Subpart 67-4), the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) provides the following:

While a school is closed in response to COVID-19, sampling for lead in drinking water should not be performed. Sampling should be conducted upon resuming normal operating conditions. The reporting requirements under Subpart 67-4 will be temporarily extended until the school is reopened, for those test results received immediately prior to or during closure. However, upon reopening, the reporting requirements contained in Subpart 67-4 must be followed. These include reporting of lead test results exceeding the action level to the Local Health Department within 1 business day, and to staff, parents, and guardians within 10 business days of reopening or receipt of the sample results.

All test results and applicable information must be reported to the State using the NYSDOH's electronic reporting system within 10 business days and on the school's website within 6 weeks of reopening or receipt of the sample results. When a school is permitted to reopen, the school must promptly remove all outlets with lead test results exceeding the action level, from service or provide proper signage and controls to ensure the outlets are not used for drinking until remedial measures are performed. Please note, this temporary extension to reporting does not apply to schools that receive their test results following reopening, and all schools should continue to strive to complete their reporting obligations as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions, please send an email to: [lead.in.school.drinking.water@health.ny.gov](mailto:lead.in.school.drinking.water@health.ny.gov)

Thank you for your participation and efforts during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

The Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Program

*This email is being sent to school representatives that may be involved with the lead testing in school drinking water program. If you have received this email in error, please contact your school's Health Commerce System (HCS) Coordinator to update your HCS account assignments accordingly.*