



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: October 26, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: EPA's revised [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) and a new [Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act \(WIIN\)](#)

This is to inform all school divisions that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has changed its recommendations regarding water testing protocols. EPA is now recommending a 2-step sampling protocol. Step 1 is a 250-mL first-draw sample to identify potential lead in the fixture. Step 2 (if Step 1 is high) is a 250-mL flush sample (after a 30-second flush) to identify lead in the plumbing behind the fixture. Both samples should be taken after an 8 to 18-hour stagnation period.

The previous 20 ppb Action Level is no longer used. EPA encourages schools to prioritize remediation efforts based on lead sample results, and to use the steps in the toolkit to pinpoint lead sources to reduce their lead levels to the lowest possible concentrations.

The EPA's new 3Ts manual can be viewed at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-09/documents/final_revised_3ts_manual_508.pdf.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is reviewing EPA's revised [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) and the [Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act \(WIIN\)](#). VDH is also setting up an interagency workgroup to review protocols on how to implement this change and to consider applying for an EPA grant for lead testing in schools and childcare centers.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will inform school divisions of the availability of any EPA funds if a grant is awarded to Virginia. For additional information, you can contact Vijay Ramnarain, Director of Support Services at (804) 225-2037 or at Vijay.ramnarain@doe.virginia.gov.

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