



**Town of Wilmington**  
**Public Buildings Department**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Interim Superintendent Paul Ruggiero  
From: George Hooper, Public Buildings Superintendent  
Date: November 20, 2017

RE: Water Testing

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Wilmington Public Buildings Dept. will continue its testing of drinking water for Lead and Copper in our School buildings. In 2016, the Public Buildings Department applied for, and received, a grant through the MassDEP that provides technical assistance with laboratory analysis to assess lead and copper in drinking water at all our schools buildings.

MassDEP Program Elements / Activities consist of:

- Maintenance Checklist (Identifies each facility/School in the program);
- Map of Taps to be sampled (Identifies all taps/faucets/fixtures used for drinking water and food/beverage preparation);
- Sampling Plans (Corresponds with the Map on location codes that identifies the type of tap being sampled). Examples: DW= Drinking Water Bubbler, WC= Water Cooler, CF= Classroom Faucet
- Sampling Guidance/Chain of Custody (Tracks sample from collection and labeling through sample results to ensure integrity of the data);
- Sampling results and Action levels (Laboratories will report sample results electronically to MassDEP who will distribute the results);
- Plumbing Profile (Completed for each building for its plumbing system to compare to the EPA's list of Banned Water coolers/fountains to help identify potential sources of lead and copper).

- Follow up steps in response to an Action Level Exceedence (Immediate shut off of problem fixture, removal and replacement and communication to consumers).

In September 2016, Public Buildings personnel along with the Mass DEP, started the sampling portion of the testing process. This required that samples to be collected after the water in the building has not been in use for more than six hours, but not longer than 18 hours. Collection started at the buildings at 5:30 AM and continued until the building became occupied. All samples were sent to a MWRA lab for testing with results being returned and reported to the MassDEP.

At this point all water coolers / drinking fountains and faucets that are not identified for “HAND WASH ONLY” have been tested and units that contain test results that were near or at the action levels have been removed from service and updated. Any water cooler listed on the MassDEP recall list has been replaced. The MassDEP recommends testing every three years, however the Public Buildings Department will be testing annually to monitor and maintain safe levels of lead and copper in our drinking water.

#### **HOW TO HELP REDUCE LEAD EXPOSURE AT SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES?**

If you are a Teacher, Staff member or student easy things you can do to help reduce exposure if lead levels are elevated in tap water:

- Obey signs identifying water outlets that are for handwashing only;
- Let the water run for one (1) minute before you drink from a fountain or faucet; and
- Use cold water for drinking and cooking. If hot water is required run cold water first and heat it in a microwave or on a stove top.

For more information on Lead or Copper in School Drinking water visit the following website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html>

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (978)-658-3017.

Sincerely,

George Hooper  
Superintendent of Public Buildings

Cc;  
Jeffrey M. Hull, Town Manager