

A Participation Overview for Public Schools & Charter Schools: Lead In Water Section

What is the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids™ program?

The goal of the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program is to identify and eliminate exposure to lead and asbestos hazards where North Carolina children learn and play. This program helps fulfill North Carolina requirements for public schools and child care facilities related to **lead in water, lead-based paint, and asbestos.**

This flyer focuses on lead in drinking and cooking water.



Who is involved in the program?

The Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program is a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), RTI International, along with NC Department of Public Instruction as a liaison.

We partner with public schools and child care facilities to check for environmental hazards, share results, and help facilities take action to ensure healthy learning environments for children. Facilities' participation in this program is FREE thanks to funding from the state and federal government.

Why is the program important?

Lead is a toxic metal, and there is no safe level of exposure. Early childhood lead exposure can cause lifelong behavioral and cognitive deficits. Lead in water can come from various sources, including lead service lines, piping, and plumbing, including faucet fixtures and solder. The only way to identify and get lead out of water is to test every tap used for drinking and cooking.

How does the program work?

Visit our program web page at www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina to get started.



Pre-Enrollment



DESIGNATE PRIMARY CONTACT

Designate a primary contact for the water sampling process.



ATTEND PRE-ENROLLMENT WEBINAR

To access the online portal, school staff must first attend a pre-enrollment training webinar that will cover lead and asbestos hazards, state requirements, personnel and school information needed for the program, commonly asked questions, and tips for success. After attending the webinar, the attendee will receive the enrollment PIN to enroll through the online portal.



CREATE AN ONLINE ACCOUNT AND LINK TO YOUR SCHOOL

Go to www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina.

Enrollment Survey



COMPLETE SECTION TRAINING

Watch the lead in water training video to learn more about how to identify drinking and cooking taps, designate sinks as handwash only, enroll in the program, collect samples, and ship them. All staff involved in collecting water samples should review video trainings and written instructions.



ENROLL YOUR SCHOOL

Gather the required information and fill out the lead in drinking and cooking water enrollment survey for your school.

ENROLLMENT SURVEY CHECKLIST

Make sure you have the following before starting the survey:

- Building information
- Student demographics
- Inventory of drinking and cooking taps
- Inventory of taps not used for drinking or cooking
- Water filters (if applicable)
- Drinking water supply information

Sample Collection and Analysis Process



DESIGNATED CONTACT COLLECT AND SHIP SAMPLES

Use the provided sampling kits and our easy-to-use instructions, collect samples of drinking and cooking water and ship the samples back to our labs for analysis.



RTI LABORATORY ANALYSIS

Once RTI receives the shipped samples, our laboratory will analyze them using state-of-the-science laboratory equipment that allows us to detect lead in drinking water at levels as low as 0.1 parts per billion (ppb). It takes about 2-3 weeks from when the samples are shipped to RTI to when results are posted.



VIEW RESULTS

Results reports will include recommended or required next steps. These next steps are designed to help your school meet state regulatory requirements and support healthy environments for children and staff.

If water from a tap has lead results above the state action level (10 ppb), your school **must restrict use** for drinking and cooking until mitigation actions have been taken and further testing confirms the tap is below the state action level.



TAKE ACTION

Our team will coordinate directly with your school, our partners at NC DHHS, and external professionals—like plumbers—to help complete any required on-site work. Visit the program website, www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina, to learn more about funding and covered mitigation activities.

With your help, we can identify and eliminate exposures to lead-based paint hazards where North Carolina children learn and play.



COMMUNICATE

We encourage schools to communicate with parents, staff, and students throughout the entire process. At a minimum, schools are legally required to notify parents, staff, and students if environmental hazards exceed state or federal action levels.

For tools to aid communication with your school's stakeholders, please visit our Resources page on the program website.

REMEMBER

There is no safe level of lead exposure! If lead is found in water but the hazards do not exceed the state action level, we recommend that the schools designate the tap for handwash use only or take no-cost and low-cost mitigation actions to reduce exposure to lead in water (see our Training Resources page, bit.ly/3CK-resources)



QUESTIONS?



F.A.Qs

bit.ly/3CK-faq



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1-855-997-2864



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