

Understanding the Program & Rule Requirements

What is the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids™ program?

The Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program helps **fulfill North Carolina requirements for public schools and child care facilities related to lead in water, lead-based paint, and asbestos**. The goal is to identify and eliminate exposure to lead and asbestos hazards where North Carolina children learn and play. The program is a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) and RTI International. Our program is supported by our liaison, the NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI).

North Carolina Rule Requirements

[NC 10A NCAC 41C.1001-1007](#)

[15A NCAC 18A.2816](#)

Effective April 1, 2023, North Carolina legislatively mandated that public schools and child care facilities address lead and asbestos hazards by:

- Testing for lead in drinking/cooking water,
- Identifying lead-based paint hazards,
- Identifying asbestos hazards, and
- Mitigating or restricting access to any identified hazards.

As this is a legislatively mandated effort to address lead and asbestos hazards, North Carolina facilities are required by law to make sure all requirements are met.

Why were the requirements enacted, and why are they important?

Exposure to lead and asbestos is a public health concern. Lead is a toxic metal with no safe level of exposure. Even at low levels of exposure, lead is associated with lifelong behavioral and cognitive deficits. Lead may be present in indoor environments including dust, paint, plumbing, such as faucet fixtures and solder, and soil.

Asbestos is a known cancer-causing agent and there is no documented safe level of asbestos exposure. Asbestos was commonly used in various building materials. When safely managed, these materials do not present a hazard.



What is the cost of the program?

Participation in the program is FREE thanks to funding from the state and federal government. The program includes free testing and inspections for lead in drinking and cooking water, lead-based paint, and asbestos. The costs for water mitigation, such as the replacement of fixtures and water filters, are also included. Lead-based paint and asbestos mitigation costs are fully reimbursed for child care facilities and up to two-thirds of mitigation costs are reimbursed for public schools. Visit bit.ly/3CK-reimburse for more information.

How can my facility get started?

Facilities will receive an email to sign up for a pre-enrollment webinar from the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (NC DCDEE) or from NC DPI.

During the pre-enrollment webinar, attendees will learn about lead and asbestos hazards, state requirements, personnel and facility information needed for the program, commonly asked questions, and tips for success. Our team will be available to answer any questions you may have at the end of the webinar.

How does the program work?

The program has three sections to fulfill the rule requirements: 1) lead in water, 2) lead-based paint, and 3) asbestos. Each section is facilitated through our online portal at www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina.



Facilities should designate a primary contact for each section. The primary contact will be responsible for completing the enrollment survey, including uploading necessary documentation, and will be the main point of contact for the section. Additional individuals can help to complete the enrollment surveys, if needed.

Enrollment

Our team will review the enrollment survey responses for each section to determine the next steps for your facility:



LEAD IN WATER

We will send your facility a custom water sampling kit. Your facility will collect and ship drinking/cooking water samples using our user-friendly instructions and online tutorials.



LEAD-BASED PAINT

All child care facilities will enroll in the lead-based paint section regardless of facility type.

We will determine whether a lead risk assessment is needed or whether your facility can be exempt from the assessment requirements. If an on-site visit is needed, we will assign a certified lead risk assessor to your facility.



ASBESTOS

All child care facilities will enroll in the lead-based paint section regardless of facility type.

We will determine whether an asbestos inspection is needed or whether your facility can be exempt from the inspection requirements. If an on-site visit is needed, we will assign an accredited asbestos inspector to your facility.

RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

Results and recommended actions for each section will be available in the online portal for facilities to notify parents, staff, and students. Your facility will consider the recommended actions and then decide whether to mitigate or restrict access to any identified hazards.



LEAD IN WATER

Facility staff can choose to install water filters, replace faucet fixtures, or implement other mitigation activities themselves or request our team to conduct mitigation activities.



LEAD-BASED PAINT

We will provide the recommended actions from the certified lead risk assessor. Facilities are required to restrict access to or mitigate any identified hazards. Reimbursement for mitigation costs is available from NC DHHS.



ASBESTOS

We will provide the recommended actions from the accredited asbestos professional. Facilities are required to restrict access to or mitigate any identified hazards. Reimbursement for mitigation costs is available from NC DHHS.

Is this different from the Clean Water for Carolina Kids program?

Water testing through this program is connected with your facility's participation in the Clean Water for Carolina Kids program. State sanitation guidelines require child care facilities to test their water for lead every 3 years.

Operating centers approaching the time for retesting or facilities operating within a public or charter school will participate in this program based on facility type:

- **Child Care Facilities Operating within Public or Charter Schools:** If your facility operates in a public or charter school, school staff should enroll and test the entire school. Child care facilities do not need to enroll in this program. You should provide the list of approved taps through your child care sanitation license. School staff filling out the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids information can then designate the appropriate taps.
- **Established Child Care Facilities:** If your facility is not located in a public or charter school and has already tested drinking and cooking water through the Clean Water for Carolina Kids program, you should retest your facility every 3 years. Per state sanitation guidelines, we will invite your facility to retest when you are approaching 3 years since your last test. [Retesting instructions](#) can be found online and is free for all child care facilities.
- **New Child Care Facilities:** If your new facility is not located in a public or charter school and did not already test drinking and cooking water through the Clean Water for Carolina Kids program, your facility will need to complete the full testing of taps.

QUESTIONS?



F.A.Qs

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1-855-997-2864



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