Clean Water For US Kids™

Guidance for Teacher Involvement

Want to engage students and teachers during the sampling process?

We understand this is a complicated time for schools and staff, but there are many ways to test school drinking water through this program. This includes integrating testing into school curricula like science classes. This guide walks you through the steps in the process and how teachers can help along the way.

Step 1: Pre-enrollment webinar

The first step in the process is to attend a 30-minute pre-enrollment webinar. The webinar overviews 1) how to enroll, 2) how to sample, and 3) how to ship your samples back. Please register for one of the required webinars at https://bit.ly/3hW66kN. Webinars are offered a few times a week at different times. Choose only one webinar to attend. Once you complete the webinar, an access code will be shared for enrollment.

Teachers can attend the pre-enrollment webinar.

Step 2: Engage your community and students

Coordinate with the principal and superintendent to develop and approve a testing plan and a communication plan. Communicate early and often with the wider school community about testing plans, results, and any next steps. Open communication will support community engagement and trust in your commitment to providing a safe environment for students and staff. Find resources for communications plans and templates here: https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water.

Teachers can begin to introduce environmental health topics and lead hazards in class. The sidebar contains several resources to get started →.

Step 3: Find the taps

You will need to know how many drinking and cooking taps are in the school. For the best results, you should have access to the inventory sketch for your facility. Simply walk around the school and make a note of all the drinking and cooking taps throughout the building.

Online Lead Curriculum Resources

There are lots of resources online to help teachers get started. Here are a few:

- National Head Start Association **Lead Poisoning Prevention Resources** that include factsheets, home checklist, classroom talking points, songs, and exercises. https://www.epa.gov/lead/daycare-and-classroom-outreach-materials
- US Environmental Protection Agency **Lead Blockers**, a guide for K-8 activities designed to educate children about the health effects of lead and how certain nutrients can reduce the absorption of lead. https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/leadblockers.pdf
- Center for Ecogenetics & Environmental Health at the University of **Washington Interdisciplinary Environmental Health Curriculum for Middle School Students** contains multisubject lessons about lead. https://deohs.washington.edu/edge/sites/deohs.washington.edu.edge/files/FF_Lead.pdf
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences **Kids Environmental Health Stories** contains lead-specific titles like Bradley and the Bad Pb, Mother Bear, and Lead Busters Club. https://kids.niehs.nih.gov/activities/stories/index.htm
- US Environmental Protection Agency **Drinking Water Activities for Students and Teachers** is a hub of activities, games, and resources for K-12 on water and drinking water. https://www.epa.gov/students/lesson-plans-teacher-guides-and-online-environmental-resources-educators-water
- US Geological Survey's **Water Science School** contains resources on water related topics including water quality and use. https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school

The enrollment system is organized by tap location categories: classrooms, kitchens/cafeterias, water fountains, gyms, outside/playgrounds/fields, and other tap locations. So, it is helpful to make a note of each tap's location. Also, make note of any taps with water filters and the type of filter.

Teachers can walk around schools and find all the drinking and cooking taps. Teachers can have students help collect this list.

Step 4: Enroll your school

The next step is to enroll your school in your state program. You will need the code you received after attending the pre-enrollment webinar. Before starting, make sure to have the following building and demographic information ready to enter into the enrollment system:

1. Inventory sketch of taps in your building
   If there are drinking and cooking taps or water fountains that are unused due to COVID-19 protocols or due to extended closing, we recommend including those for analysis.
2. Age of building
3. Year and types of renovations to faucets sinks or plumbing, if applicable
4. Summer school and Fall schedule
5. Drinking water source (public water utility or well water)
6. Number of students enrolled
7. Grade range
8. Percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch
9. Race and ethnicities percentages of students
10. Brand of water filters, how often they are replaced, and who is responsible for maintaining, if applicable,
11. How the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted operations (current status)

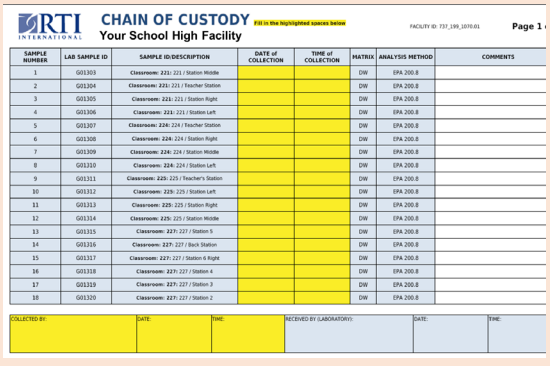
During enrollment, you can add multiple users to help in enrollment. It is important that whoever enrolls has all the information listed above to successfully enroll. Only one primary person can review and submit the enrollment survey.

Example School Scenario

You have 50 taps: 22 classrooms taps, 4 gym taps, 6 kitchen/cafeteria taps, 3 other taps and 15 water fountains. You will receive 4 boxes.

- Box 1 will contain 16 classroom bottles
- Box 2 will contain 6 classroom bottles, 4 gym bottles, and 6 kitchen/cafeteria bottles
- Box 3 will contain 3 "other" bottles and 13 water fountain bottles.
- Box 4 will contain 2 water fountain bottles.

Each box will come with a chain of custody document. In this scenario, you will receive 4 chain of custody documents, 1 in each box.


RTI INTERNATIONAL

CHAIN OF CUSTODY
Fill in the highlighted spaces below
Your School High Facility

FACILITY ID: 737_199_1070.01

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SAMPLE NUMBER	LAB SAMPLE ID	SAMPLE ID/DESCRIPTION	DATE of COLLECTION	TIME of COLLECTION	MATRIX	ANALYSIS METHOD	COMMENTS
1	G01303	Classroom: 221: 221 / Station Middle			DW	EPA 200.8	
2	G01304	Classroom: 221: 221 / Teacher Station			DW	EPA 200.8	
3	G01305	Classroom: 221: 221 / Station Right			DW	EPA 200.8	
4	G01306	Classroom: 221: 221 / Station Left			DW	EPA 200.8	
5	G01307	Classroom: 224: 224 / Teacher Station			DW	EPA 200.8	
6	G01308	Classroom: 224: 224 / Station Right			DW	EPA 200.8	
7	G01309	Classroom: 224: 224 / Station Middle			DW	EPA 200.8	
8	G01310	Classroom: 224: 224 / Station Left			DW	EPA 200.8	
9	G01311	Classroom: 225: 225 / Teacher's Station			DW	EPA 200.8	
10	G01312	Classroom: 225: 225 / Station Left			DW	EPA 200.8	
11	G01313	Classroom: 225: 225 / Station Right			DW	EPA 200.8	
12	G01314	Classroom: 225: 225 / Station Middle			DW	EPA 200.8	
13	G01315	Classroom: 227: 227 / Station 5			DW	EPA 200.8	
14	G01316	Classroom: 227: 227 / Back Station			DW	EPA 200.8	
15	G01317	Classroom: 227: 227 / Station 6 Right			DW	EPA 200.8	
16	G01318	Classroom: 227: 227 / Station 4			DW	EPA 200.8	
17	G01319	Classroom: 227: 227 / Station 3			DW	EPA 200.8	
18	G01320	Classroom: 227: 227 / Station 2			DW	EPA 200.8	

COLLECTED BY:	DATE:	TIME:	RECEIVED BY (LABORATORY):	DATE:	TIME:

Step 5: Prepare for your package(s)

After enrollment is complete, RTI International will ship your sample kit(s) to you. If you have more than 18 taps, you will receive more than one sample box. If you receive more than one box, we recommend that you **DO NOT OPEN ALL AT ONCE**. Bottles will be packaged in the following order: 1st) classrooms, 2nd) gyms, 3rd) kitchen/cafeteria, 4th) other taps, 5th) outside/playground/fields, and 6th) water fountains (see sidebar→).

WE RECOMMEND OPENING ONE BOX AT A TIME.

Important!
Every citizen scientist should watch our training videos or read more about the program process before the sample date.

Step 6: Develop a sampling plan

It is important to estimate how long it will take to sample all your taps. On average it takes 1-3 minutes to collect a sample and record the sampling information. ***Use this estimate of 1-3 minutes per tap to estimate how many volunteers you will need.***

Step 7: Sample

Plan to sample on a Monday morning. You need to sample when nobody has used water in the building for at least 8 hours—this is called a "first-draw" sample. Let teachers and anyone else who comes in early know when you plan to sample and set an alarm to get there early. **DO NOT** use water in the building before testing. If you come in to do the sampling and somebody has used water anywhere in the building, simply postpone your sampling until the next Monday. Follow the sampling instructions.

Teachers can collect samples. Involving more teachers can greatly decrease the time it takes to complete sampling.

Step 8: Send samples to the lab

Repack bottles and the chain of custody form into zipper bags. Then all into the box. Each box should have a chain of custody document that matches the bottles in the box. Use the provided UPS shipping label to schedule for UPS pick. Schedule a pickup at UPS.com OR call UPS at 1-800-742-5877 after 7 am. If you schedule before 10 am, UPS will come the same day. It is important to send your samples back right away. If samples are received by the lab more than 10 days after collection, samples will be invalid, and we cannot analyze them.

Teachers can package sample bottles and contact UPS to schedule a pickup.

Step 9: Review results

After the lab receives the bottles it takes about 4-5 weeks to analyze and post results. You will receive an email notification when the results are ready.

Teachers can show results to the class and educate students on steps to keep their drinking water safe.

Questions? Contact us

https://www.cleanwaterforuskids.org/contact or at

1-855-997-2864 by voicemail or text *with questions or comments.*