

3Ts for Tribal Schools

A TRAINING, TESTING, TAKING ACTION Approach



What are the 3Ts?

The 3Ts toolkit can help schools and child care facilities implement a voluntary program for reducing lead in drinking water. It includes a training, testing, and taking action approach.

- **Training** tribal school officials to raise awareness of the potential occurrences, causes, and health effects of lead in drinking water and develop program plans.
- **Testing** drinking water in tribal schools to identify potential problems.
- **Taking Action** to reduce lead in drinking water.

Utilizing the 3T toolkit along with clear communication will help ensure a successful 3Ts Program.

Communication Plan



Telling parents and staff about your 3Ts program will demonstrate your commitment to protecting children and staff health. Communicating early and often about your testing plans, results, and next steps will build confidence in your facility's ability to provide a safe environment.

Why is it important to test for lead?

Infants and young children are especially susceptible to lead exposure. Water can be a significant source of lead exposure. Lead can enter your drinking water through plumbing materials that contain lead.

There is no known safe level of lead. Negative health effects include:

- Behavior and learning problems
- Lower IQ and hyperactivity
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Anemia



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How do we get started?

You cannot see, taste, or smell lead in water; **testing is the only sure way to know if there are elevated levels of lead in your drinking water.** The first and most important step to begin a testing program is to make a plan. Establish partnerships with organizations that can serve as valuable resources on lead in tribal schools' drinking water.

Step 1: Get the right people together:



- Reach out to your tribal water system, or your regional EPA contact found at the resource link below. They may already have resources to help or can provide consultation on getting started.
- Partner with nongovernmental organizations who have experience with testing for lead in drinking water. They may be willing to help you navigate through the planning and implementation process of your program.
- Find out if there are other schools near you who have implemented the 3Ts Program and ask them to join your planning workgroup.
- Form a working group with these partners and your facility administrators that can provide a platform for effective communication.

Step 2: Know the facts:



- The EPA 3Ts program provides the resources about lead in drinking water to equip you with everything you need to develop your own program to protect children from drinking water lead exposures in your facility.
- Review the Planning a 3T's Program section of the *3T's for reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities* guidance.
- Determine if monitoring has previously been conducted at your school, review current and past records.



Before you start testing...

If you identify a lead service line through review of historical records and visual inspection, contact your local water system to learn more about how to get it removed.

Correcting Lead Problems

Engage with your EPA Regional contact and other partners to assist you in developing an appropriate remediation plan for your school.

Step 3: Make a plan and take action:



- Develop program plans and assign responsibilities that provide the framework for an effective program.
- Communicate your plan, testing results, and strategy to correct any known lead problems with your community throughout the process.
- Test all drinking water outlets used for consumption (i.e. drinking water fountains, faucets, kitchen, and bathroom sinks).
- Take action at outlets found to have high lead levels.

Helpful note: If you rent your facility, notify the building owner of your testing plans, ask for help, and provide him or her with a copy of your test results. Encourage the owner to participate in this testing process and to take corrective actions if lead problems are found.

How do we get help?

The 3Ts for reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities, found at www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts, will guide you throughout the process. You will find:

- Steps you can take to test your water
- Information on how to interpret results
- Short-term and long-term remediation strategies to protect children from lead exposure

