

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2019-11

TO: School & Child Care Facilities
FROM: Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, Commissioner, Department of Public Health
DATE: August 8, 2019
RE: Flushing Drinking Water Taps to Reduce Lead

The DPH recommends that school and child care facilities implement an ongoing flushing program to reduce possible lead concentrations in drinking water. The potential for lead to leach into water can increase the longer the water remains in contact with lead in plumbing. Flushing is generally a [best practice tool](#) to improve the overall water quality. Flushing the drinking water taps (letting the water run for a set amount of time) can help reduce lead concentrations by clearing the water that has been sitting in water piping for an extended period of time.

How to Conduct Drinking Water Tap Flushing

It is recommended that flushing should take place after weekends, vacations, and holidays because the water has remained stagnant in the piping for a long period of time after these breaks. It is recommended that flushing occur at every cold water tap throughout the facility and water fountains. The degree of lead level reduction varies depending on the age and condition of the plumbing and the corrosiveness of the water. If the water is corrosive, permanent corrosion control treatment may be necessary. Schools and child care facilities should establish an ongoing flushing program to move fresh water or treated water into every tap to reduce lead levels.

In addition to flushing, the faucet aerators (screens) should be cleaned periodically to remove tiny particles of lead trapped in the aerator screen. For aerator cleaning instructions, please refer to "[Be Lead-Safe: Clean your aerators](#)" pamphlet.

NOTE: Flushing and aerator cleaning should not be conducted immediately prior to collecting a water sample but should be planned as part of the school's or child care facility's overall water management program to improve drinking water quality.



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For more information on how to conduct flushing and reduce lead in drinking water, please refer to the [Drinking Water Section Lead and Copper Page](#) or the following links:

[EPA's 3Ts Flushing Best Practices](#)

[EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water](#)

[Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Guidance for Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)

[Lead in Drinking Water Fact Sheet for Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)

Note: DPH has consulted with the Commissioners of State Department of Education (SDE) and Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and they support this educational effort.

If you have any additional questions on flushing, please contact Carissa Madonna or Cindy Sek at (860) 509-7333.

c:

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