Montana’s Lead Reduction In School Drinking Water Rule

Greg Montgomery
Lead in School Drinking Water Rule Manager
MT DEQ
02/15/2022
Lead Reduction in School Drinking Water Program

- In January 2020, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) adopted amendments to the administrative rules regarding the matter of health in Montana schools. The amendments included requirements pertaining to reducing lead in schools’ drinking water. It requires all schools accredited by the Montana Board of Public Education to sample for lead in schools’ drinking water.

- DEQ implements the program on behalf of DPHHS.

- All drinking water fountains and kitchen fixtures used for drinking or food preparation must be sampled. As well as all other fixtures that have the potential of being used for food prep or drinking (classroom sinks, bathroom sinks, nurse’s office, concession stands, etc.). Results are place into the Bins in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bin</th>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Corrective Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bin 1</td>
<td>&gt;15.0 ug/L or ppb</td>
<td>Corrective action required. Immediately discontinue use of the affected fixture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bin 2</td>
<td>5.0 and 15.0 ug/L</td>
<td>Corrective action required. Interim flushing plan must be developed if fixture is to remain in service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bin 3</td>
<td>&lt;5.0 ug/L</td>
<td>No corrective action is required, conduct routine sampling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Update & Sampling Results

- Total Schools - ~560
- Results received from – 266
- Schools who have started Program - ~300
- Total samples collected – 8,632
- Total samples greater than Action Level – 2640 (30%)
- Sample results between 5 and 15 ppb – 1759 (21%)
- Sample results greater than 15 ppb – 743 (9%)

- Avg # of samples per school - ~50
- # of Schools with no exceedances - 47
Program Update & Sampling Results

**Sampled Fixture Types**

- Classroom Sink: 8%
- Bathroom Sink: 3%
- Drinking Fountain: 12%
- Sink Other: 2%
- Kitchen Sink: 21%
- Bottle Fill Station: 24%
- Other: 30%

Percentage of samples taken by fixture

**Top Four Fixture Break Outs**

Top four sampled fixtures
Corrective Actions that can be used

• If fixture is likely source of lead
  o Replacing old fixture with new “Lead Free” fixture
  o Permanently removing fixture if not needed or used
  o Installing Point of Use filters
  o Daily Flushing/Signage (not preferred)

• If plumbing is likely source of lead
  o Auto-flushers
  o Partial plumbing replacement
  o Full plumbing replacement
  o Whole school treatment (corrosion control)
  o Lead service line replacement (if present)
Available Funding

Sample Funding (WIIN Grant)
- DEQ has received a grant from the EPA to help schools cover the cost of the Lead sampling in their drinking water.
  - The grant will cover the laboratory costs for analyzing the samples. Laboratories will be billing DEQ directly.
  - The grant can only be used for public schools.
  - The grant covers the initial sampling (based on current WIIN grant funding).

Remediation Funding
- DEQ/Office of Public Instruction Remediation Reimbursement Program
  - DEQ and OPI have developed a remediation reimbursement program.
    - Schools can apply for reimbursement of remediation expenses up to $1,000.
    - Program managed through OPI.
    - Limited Funding (first come first serve)
  - Lead Remediation Reimbursement Grants (mt.gov)
  - Schools that have applied include Kalispell, Billings, Jordan, Absarokee, Eureka and Philipsburg

- *WIIN Grant for remediation – Infrastructure Bill allows WIIN grant to be used for Remediation*
- School Major Maintenance Fund - Permissive levy
- USDA Rural Development (loans and grants)
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- MT Board of Investments (loans)
- DEQ State Revolving Fund (loans)
- ARPA/CARES Funding – Bottle Fill Stations & Motion Activated Fixtures
Questions or Comments?

Greg Montgomery  
Lead in School Drinking Water Rule Manager  
Public Water Supply  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
406-444-5312  
Gregory.Montgomery@mt.gov  
DEQleadinschools@mt.gov  
https://deq.mt.gov/water/programs/dw