

Policy Update: GLLC Policies for Reducing Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

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GLLC Model Policies for Lead Service Line Replacement will reduce lead exposure for the next generation

- Comprehensive service line inventories, including privately owned portion.
- Require replacement of all lead service lines over a period of 20 years or less.
- Authorize community water systems to pay for and conduct the replacement of privately owned lead service lines.
- Fund the full replacement of lead service lines through loans, grants, rates, or a combination.
- Prohibit the partial replacement of lead service lines.



Recent Lead Service Line Replacement Policy Achievements

Policy	Great Lakes States / Provinces
Remove all Lead Service Lines within 20 years; Ban on partial lead service line replacements	Michigan (regulation) (Illinois – bill introduced)
Allow lead service line replacement on private property	Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin (Illinois – bill introduced)
Service Line Inventory	Illinois, Wisconsin (annual) Michigan (preliminary and complete) Ohio (map every 5 years) Indiana (one time voluntary)
Added funding for lead service line replacement	Indiana, Minnesota*, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan
Action level or health goal reduction	Canada: 5 ppb Michigan: 12 ppb (in 2025)

*Minnesota completed an [innovative cost benefit analysis](#) of lead service line replacement

Filter First Strategy in Schools and Child Care Places the Focus on Providing Safe Water Now

- Sampling provides information, but not protection. Children don't have time to wait for safe drinking water.
- Lead is present in school plumbing, especially in buildings built before 2014.
- Lead release is sporadic; one lead sample does not indicate lead exposure risk at a tap.
- There is no safe level of lead exposure; American Academy of Pediatrics recommends action level of 1 ppb.



Great Lakes States Policies on Lead in Schools and Childcares

Policy	Great Lakes States / Provinces
Filter First strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michigan introduced Filter First legislation for schools and child care facilities
Lead in water testing in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illinois – 1x sampling, notify if >5ppb, no remediation required New York – Sample every 5 years; remediate over 15 ppb Minnesota – Sample every 5 years; remediate over 20 ppb, notify over 2 ppb Indiana – 1x sampling, remediate over 15 ppb Pennsylvania – recommends annual sampling, recommendation to remediate over 15 ppb. Must discuss at a public meeting if school decides not to sample Ohio and Wisconsin – voluntary, action level at 15 ppb Michigan introduced a testing bill, has a voluntary sampling program
Lead in water testing in child care facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illinois – Must sample every year until 2 consecutive tests show no lead; action level is 2 ppb Wisconsin introduced a childcare testing bill that did not pass Michigan introduced a testing bill

Other Notable Updates

Coronavirus and Water Quality

- Coronavirus shutdowns increase risk of lead and bacteria in stagnant water in schools and workplaces
- Water shutoff moratoria and water restoration orders affect risk of lead release and household water quality
 - Michigan, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin
- Federal infrastructure funding stimulus bills include funding targeted for lead service line replacement

National Lead Updates

- Point of Use filter standard NSF 53 for lead has been revised to be more protective
- Plumbing device standard NSF 61 has been revised to reduce lead leaching in “lead-free” devices that contain up to 0.25% lead by weight
- EPA finalized the Use of Lead Free Pipes, Fittings, Fixtures, Solder, and Flux for Drinking Water Rule requiring certification for plumbing materials intended for drinking water.
- EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions expected to be finalized in Fall 2020

Resources for Restoring Water Quality in Schools

- CHE Webinar: [Restoring Water Quality in Schools and Childcares](#)
- NRDC Blog: [Reopening Schools – Drinking Water Concerns](#)
- New York Times: [Reopened Schools Find Health Risks in Water After Covid-19 Lockdowns](#)
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. [School Drinking Water Program.](#)
 - [High-Velocity Flushing Guidance](#)
 - [Fresh Tap Flushing Guidance](#)
- Environmental Science Policy Research Institute. [Building Water Quality and Coronavirus: Flushing Guidance for Periods of Low or No Use.](#)
- Environmental Protection Agency. [Information on Maintaining or Restoring Water Quality in Buildings with Low or No Use.](#)
- Because Health: [Water Quality During Coronavirus for Childcare Facilities and Schools.](#)
- Canadian Water and Wastewater Association – [Safely Re-Opening Buildings a Fact Sheet for Building Owners/Operators](#)