

Lead Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers



As your local water agency, we take pride in serving our community and customers with safe, reliable and affordable drinking water. Here are some basics you should know about requirements for lead testing of drinking water for California Child Care Providers.

What is the role of water agencies?

Water agencies in California are required to work with kindergarten through 12th grade public schools to test for lead at school sites by **July 1, 2019** (AB 746, 2017). Although water agencies are not required to test for lead in child care and day care facilities, California's regulations require water agencies to frequently test their own water systems for the presence of contaminants including lead. If you want to learn more about lead in drinking water and testing requirements for water agencies in California, visit the websites of the State Water Resources Control Board (waterboards.ca.gov) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (epa.gov).

What are the new requirements for Child Care/day care facilities?

- Beginning **January 1, 2019**, state regulations require licensed child day care facilities to provide the parent or guardian of each child with written information on risks and impacts of lead exposure, blood lead testing requirements, and options for obtaining blood lead testing, including any programs that offer free or discounted tests. (AB 2370, 2018)
- For child care providers licensed on or after **July 1, 2020**, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) must add instruction on the prevention of lead exposure to the Preventative Health and Safety Training curriculum.



What are the lead testing requirements?

- The California Department of Social Services must adopt regulations to test drinking water for lead in child care centers by **January 1, 2021**. The regulations will include procedures to collect water samples.
- All child care centers operating in buildings constructed before **January 1, 2010**, must have their drinking water tested for lead contamination levels on or after **January 1, 2020**, but no later than **January 1, 2023**. Centers must test their drinking water every five years after the date of initial testing. CDSS will provide more information on who to contact for lead testing.

Contact Information

For information about these requirements, please contact your regional California Department of Social Services office or visit the CDSS website (cdss.ca.gov).

The Department of Social Services is seeking input from child care providers regarding the development of the Lead Testing and Child Care Act (AB 2370) requirements. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact the Statewide Child Care Program office at (916) 651-6040.

If you have other questions about your drinking water or our agency, please visit our website at <https://www.lodi.gov/525/Water>