

# Understanding Your Results



At this point, your school will have collected some or all of the mandated lead water samples. When you receive your water sample test results from the lab, they will report concentrations of lead in parts-per-billion (ppb). While there is no safe level of lead, lead levels over **4 ppb** exceed the Maine guideline for lead and are recommended for mitigation/remediation. Lead levels over **15 ppb** are considered significantly elevated and may warrant aggressive treatment actions.

As you review your sample results, consider not only the lead levels, but also the vulnerability of your students and the likelihood of exposure. Remember, younger children are more vulnerable to lead and are more likely to be exposed by consuming water from bubblers or bottle fill stations. Also keep in mind that the longer water sits undisturbed within your plumbing (such as after school vacations), the higher the potential for lead to dissolve into the water.

Lead Level	0 ppb	Fixtures can be used as normal
	4 ppb	Mitigation/remediation <b>recommended</b>
	>15 ppb	Mitigation/remediation <b>highly recommended</b>

If your school has fixtures for which lead sample results exceed 4 ppb, the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP) recommends immediately removing the fixture(s) from service until mitigation/remediation can take place. For fixtures with lead results over 15ppb, it is recommended that your school seek outside consultation to assist with mitigation/remediation, as more aggressive treatment options may be required.

**Schools that wish to perform *voluntary mitigation/remediation*** should refer to the *Mitigation & Remediation for Lead in School Drinking Water Guide*, enclosed with your sample results. As part of your mitigation/remediation, determine where lead is located in your building by collecting **investigatory samples**. It is recommended that you order two (2) investigatory sample kits for every fixture with elevated lead levels, and one (1) for each supply line bringing water into your building(s).

**Please contact A&L Laboratory to order your investigatory sample kits.**

Further investigation into the source of lead in your school building(s) is voluntary, however samples ordered for this purpose are **free of charge**.



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