




NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

March 7, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental Health Directors, Supervisors, and Specialists

FROM:  Ed Norman, Program Manager
Children's Environmental Health

SUBJECT: Water testing at child care centers located at public schools

Under Rule 10A NCAC 41C .1005, drinking water at public schools is required to be tested for lead by May 1, 2024. Due to the complexities and volume of water testing at more than 3,000 public schools, completion of the online enrollment process by the May deadline is considered temporary compliance with the testing requirement while the program is rolled out statewide by our vendor RTI International.

Similarly, under Rule 15A NCAC 18A .2816, drinking water at licensed child care centers is required to be tested once every three years. The first round of testing was completed for more than 4,500 centers nearly three years ago. As a result, many child care centers are due for a second round. While some have already completed the process, many others have enrolled. However, for child care centers located at public schools, our vendor has asked that they do not enroll separately from the school they are affiliated with to avoid potential duplicate testing.

For centers located at schools that are past due for re-testing, local authorized agents should indicate the need to complete testing (once the school has enrolled with RTI International) in the comment section of the child care sanitation gradesheet rather than taking demerits on item #20. In this way, our vendor will be able to implement the testing program as efficiently and quickly as feasible.

Please contact me at ed.norman@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-218-6511 if you have questions regarding this guidance.

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LOCATION: 5605 Six Forks Road, Building 3, Raleigh, NC 27609
MAILING ADDRESS: 1632 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1632
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5854 • FAX: 919-845-3972

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