
State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

CALIFORNIA CHILD CARE CENTERS TO CONDUCT LEAD TESTING

In an effort to further safeguard California's drinking water quality, the California Department of Social Services is requiring all child care centers to test for lead in their drinking water. Child care centers must test for lead once between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2023, and every five years after the initial testing.

There are approximately 14,000 child care centers in California, most of which are served by the more than 3,000 community water systems statewide. While these community water systems regularly and extensively test their drinking water for lead in accordance with state and federal requirements, children can still be exposed to lead if the drinking water is in contact with corroded pipes or old fixtures at the child care centers.

AB 2370 Requirements for Lead Testing

On September 22, 2018, the Governor of California approved Assembly Bill (AB) 2370. AB 2370 amended California Health and Safety Code sections 1596.866 and 1596.8661 and added Sections 1596.7996 and 1597.16. Pursuant to the regulations, lead testing is required once every five years from samples collected from all fixtures of the child care center. Sampling must be conducted by a qualified individual, samples must be analyzed by an ELAP-accredited laboratory, and sample results must be submitted to the state's database hosted by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

What Laboratories Need to Know if Asked to Analyze for Lead by a Child Care Center

Any laboratory receiving lead samples collected from a child care center for compliance with these requirements must 1) be ELAP-accredited for lead analysis in drinking water using EPA Method 200.8; 2) use EPA Method 200.8 for lead analysis; and 3) demonstrate a minimum reporting level of 1 part per billion (ppb) or 1 microgram per liter (µg/L). Laboratories accredited for this method can be found on the [ELAP Geographic Information System \(GIS\) Map](#). If laboratories are not currently accredited by ELAP to analyze for lead using EPA Method 200.8 and would like to participate in the lead sampling efforts, they must apply for accreditation or an update of their accreditation by submitting an application to ELAP. Visit the Application Instructions page on the [ELAP website](#) for information.

Sample Volume and Preservation

Sampling for child day care centers under AB 2370 requires a sample volume of 250 ml in a wide mouth sample bottle. All samples must be delivered to the testing laboratory within the required holding times for preservation. Sample bottles should be labeled using the following sample site ID format:

First Draw Sample:

<child care center facility id> <alphabetic code for sample location>

i.e. 123456789 A, 123456789 B, 123456789 AA*

*Double-character sample sites are allowed for sample sites >26, but no more than 52 (i.e. ZZ)

30-Second Flush or Repeat Samples:

<child care center facility id> <alphabetic code for sample location>

i.e. 123456789 A30, 123456789 B30, 123456789 ZZ30

It is important that the sample ID format follow the child care center lead sample format listed above and not the public water system's routine compliance sample format (i.e. <water system No.>-<Facility ID>).

How Laboratories Will Upload Data

Laboratories analyzing drinking water samples for lead from a child care center must upload the results to the Drinking Water's Drinking Water Quality Upload Portal. Laboratories using a Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) to generate a data file to submit the lead data will need to use the example format below. For laboratories that do not use a LIMS to generate a data file, must submit a CSV file that contains the correct format, located [HERE](#).

Facility Id	Site Id	Sample Date	Sample Time	Lab Number	Storet	XMOD	Finding	Analysis Date	Analysis Method
197416900	A	7/27/2019	11:30 AM	1000	1051	<	5	8/27/2019	200.8
197416900	A30	7/27/2019	11:30 AM	1000	1051	<	5	8/27/2019	200.8
197416900	AA	7/27/2019	11:30 AM	1000	1051	<	5	8/27/2019	200.8

Note that the Drinking Water Quality Upload Portal will continue to be used for submission of child care center data when the Division of Drinking Water's new data upload portal, the California Laboratory Intake Portal or CLIP, goes live on September 1, 2021.

Contact Information

For more information or instructions regarding data submittal, contact the Child Care Center Lead Sampling Specialist at DDW-CCC@waterboards.ca.gov.