

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE CIRCULAR

Date: June 07, 2023

CIRCULAR NUMBER: ELCC-2023-07

To: All licensed child care centres and nursery schools

Subject: Lead in Drinking Water Grant Extension, Public Reporting and Compliance Program

Effective Date: Immediately

Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> All Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Required
	<input type="checkbox"/> Procedure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centres	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Only
	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursery Schools	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Group Homes	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subsidy		

This circular is to advise all **funded** and **unfunded** licensed child care centres (including nursery schools) of the extension of the Lead in Drinking Water Grant, the Public Reporting of Testing/Mitigation Status and the Lead in Drinking Water Compliance program.

Lead in Drinking Water for Schools and Child Care Centres Grant

On September 28, 2020, the Manitoba government announced a program to fully fund lead testing of drinking water in Manitoba child care centres and schools along with grant funding for any remediation or repairs required as a result of elevated lead levels ([Circular 2020-152](#)). On December 16, 2020, centres were advised of how to access no cost lead testing ([Circular 2020-210](#)). Thank you to all child care centres who have participated in the program to date.

Recognizing the importance of participation in water testing and lead mitigation to ensure the safety of infants and young children, the department has collaborated with Manitoba Health, Environment and Climate, and Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA) to provide additional resources and extend the *Lead in Drinking Water Grant* to March 31, 2024.

It is the expectation that all licensed centres (including nursery schools), test for lead in their drinking water and take any necessary mitigation action. The grant funding continues to be available for testing, mitigation costs to address elevated lead levels and retesting, when required. Drinking water should be tested whether the centre is stand-alone, co-located in a school or building and/or was built recently.

Please note:

- **Unfunded and funded centres are eligible for the *Lead in Drinking Water Grant*.**
- **In order to meet the March 31, 2024 deadline, applications should be submitted on or before February 29, 2024.**

How to Access Financial Support for Water Testing and Lead Mitigation for Centres

Centres can request up-front support and/or reimbursement for costs through the *Lead in Drinking Water Grant*. For application forms and more information about this funding, please visit: [Lead in Drinking Water Grant - Manitoba Environmental Industries Association \(meia.mb.ca\)](https://meia.mb.ca).

Public Reporting of Testing/Mitigation Status

Please be aware that a progress report on the testing results and mitigation status for public schools will be publicly posted in the coming weeks on the Lead in Drinking Water webpage at <https://gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/lead/>.

The testing results and mitigation status for licensed child care centres will be posted in the spring of 2024.

To ensure the testing results and mitigation status for your centre are posted accurately:

- When testing is completed through the grant program, Manitoba Environmental Industries Association receives a copy of the centre's lab report.
 - If mitigation is not required, no further action needs to be taken.
 - If mitigation is required and the mitigation work has been completed, centres must complete and submit the report template provided when the mitigation grant funds were approved.
- If you are co-located in a school or other building and the testing was completed by the building owner, ask the school or the building owner for a copy of the test results for your centre.
or
If lead mitigation work has been completed at your centre without applying under the grant program:
 - Download the [Water Fixture Test Application form](#), fill it out and email the completed form to drinkingwater@meia.mb.ca.
 - To ensure information is captured for reporting and communication purposes, include copy of the lab report showing the post mitigation test results with the application form.
- For additional details on reporting, visit <https://meia.mb.ca/lead-in-drinking-water-grant>.

Lead in Drinking Water Compliance Program

The department is also pleased to announce the launch of the Office of Drinking Water's Lead in Drinking Water Compliance program.

- Door stickers will be issued to eligible centres and schools. To be eligible for the compliance sticker, a facility's test results must demonstrate that the samples from all drinking water taps in their facility are below the national guideline (0.005 mg/L).
- Facilities are encouraged to put their sticker in a prominent entryway for parents to see. It will demonstrate a facility's commitment to children's safety and assure parents that steps have been taken to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.
- Stickers will be issued in two phases based on test results that have been submitted to date: first to schools, then to child care centres.
- If you do not receive your door sticker for previously submitted test results by the end of July 2023, please forward a copy of your centre's test or retest results to the Office of Drinking Water at: odw@gov.mb.ca.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Child Care Facilities

The FAQs include specific questions that you may be asked by families; it is recommended each centre prepare their own responses to these questions. To help you respond to specific questions about water testing and/or lead in water mitigation, visit [ELCC 2023-07- Lead in Drinking Water Grant Extension, Public Reporting and Compliance Program – Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

For application forms and further information, visit: meia.mb.ca/lead-in-drinking-water-grant/. For questions about water sampling or the grant application process or reporting, please contact the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association at 204-783-7090 or drinkingwater@meia.mb.ca.

Thank you for your diligence and partnership in protecting our children from the risks of exposure to lead in drinking water.