

# Model Plan Draft: Questions and Answers

FROM 2/21/24 WEBINAR

## Document

[Model Plan Draft \(PDF\)](#)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/pbschoolguide.pdf>

## Questions

- **Do child care centers have to put results on their website as well?**

Answer: No. The statute does not require child cares to post to the web. Child cares can use many options to share results with families and staff. Some examples include:

- Posting on a bulletin board;
- Sending home information about how to get test results; and
- Posting to a website.

MDH has a toolkit with templates that may be used, or facilities can develop their own.

- [Education and Communication Toolkit for Child Care Settings \(PDF\)](#)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/toolkit/ccare.pdf>
- [Education and Communication Toolkit for Schools \(PDF\)](#)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/toolkit.pdf>

- **The plan (for schools) does not have to be submitted to MDH, correct? Just the results? They just need it in their handbook?**

Answer: Schools do not need to report/submit plans to MDH. MDH does not have to approve the plans. Schools need to post the plans to their websites and include information in a handbook or policy manual.

- **Are there any updates/new information regarding the results reporting process?**

Answer: MDH is in the process of developing a template for reporting and will share more information when it becomes available.

- **For Step 8 of the model plan about the water management plan, would that be included with the model plan, or should that be a separate plan?**

Answer: You can incorporate the water management component into the testing plan or write a separate document that you reference in your testing plan. The water management plan should have the same accessibility to staff and parents as your testing plan.

- **Does reporting directly to the state begin after July 1, 2024, for schools and child care centers? So if they test June 30, 2024, they wouldn't report those results? When do they need to tell you that they tested?**

Answer: Results and remediation options from August 1, 2023, onward need to be reported to MDH because that is the effective date of the statute amendments. Not every facility will be testing every year because each fixture only has to be tested once every 5 years. MDH will create a simplified report for facilities that have no updates to results or remediation because they will test in a future year. MDH will include instructions on which reporting needs to be done by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and what reporting need to be done the following year.

- **Regarding page 16, does “do not drink” signage need to be posted at every fixture that shouldn’t be used for consumption, even if it wasn’t tested because it’s not typically used for consumption (like bathroom sinks and cleaning sinks)? We don’t want to scare people or have people think all the water is toxic.**

Answer: The statute does not require that “do not drink” signage be posted at every fixture not used for consumption. MDH recommends that fixtures that are not tested but accessible to children be posted so it is clear to them where they should get water for drinking. You do not know the lead content of fixtures that have not been tested. We cannot expect young children to self-assess appropriate locations to drink. If fixtures are not posted then you will need to identify in your plan another way to ensure people know when to not use a certain fixture for drinking. If a fixture tests 5 ppb or more for lead it must be removed from service.

## Links to Statutes

The answers provided to questions by MDH staff are interpretations, but the statutes are the official source of requirements.

[Minnesota Statutes 121A.335 Lead in School Drinking Water](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/121A.335)  
(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/121A.335>)

[Minnesota Statutes 145.9273 Testing for Lead in Drinking Water in Child Care Settings](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/145.9273)  
(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/145.9273>)

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