Water Sampling at Child Care Facilities in Illinois: Dos and Don’ts

**Dos**

» Assemble a team to help plan and implement lead in water testing and mitigation (if lead is found)

» Communicate with parents before, during, and after sampling occurs

» Conduct a walkthrough of your facility to identify all drinking water sources and give each sampling location a unique name

» Contact an IEPA or IEPA approved lab to order sampling instructions and supplies

» Fill out your chain of custody form throughout the sampling process

» Ensure your water stagnates for at least 6 hours but no longer than 18 hours before beginning sampling

» Shut off icemakers and any devices that use water during the stagnation period

» Tape off fixtures so your water is not disturbed prior to testing

» Collect samples early in the morning before children and staff arrive

» Collect cold water samples using a pencil sized flow

» Collect a First Draw and 30 second flush sample at each drinking water outlet

» Collect a sample from your automatic ice machine

» Send your samples to an IEPA or IEPA approved for processing as soon as possible

» Keep a personal record of which sample ID corresponds to each fixture

» Tightly close bottle lids before mailing or delivering them back to the lab as they can come loose in transit

» Analyze your test results and develop a mitigation plan if any outlets have lead at or above 2.01 ppb

» Post your results and mitigation plan (if needed) in your facility

» Share your test results and mitigation plan with your DCFS licensing representative

**Don’ts**

» Do not collect samples after a long holiday or weekend

» Do not remove aerators prior to testing

» Do not open bottles until you are ready to collect a sample