

Water Testing Overview

In light of National events that brought increased attention to the issue of water quality, the City of Chicago announced several additional precautionary measures that will be added to and federal regulations as well as industry standards

As part of this announcement, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) began testing the water for levels of lead from all schools across the district. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff, and this testing was initiated out of an abundance of caution to ensure the water in our schools is safe.

Lead comes from many different sources: paint, soil, consumer products, and water, to name a few.

Drinking water in Chicago comes from Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes system is the it leaves the treatment plant. However, lead can be found in some interior plumbing fixtures and materials, and lead found in tap water usually comes from the corrosion of these items.

For testing, the U.S. EPA has established 15 ppb (parts per billion) as the action level

Water Testing to Date

3

have pre-K programs

CPS portfolio consists of 526 campuses housed in 824 buildings; 470 school campuses were built prior to 1986

The first round of testing consists of 324 schools. Testing is complete at these schools as of today. The schools were selected based on the following criteria:

- Built before 1986: In 1986, the U.S. EPA banned lead as a construction material for use in water supply systems

- Existing pre-k program: Lead exposure is more harmful to children brain development between the ages of 0 to 6

In the fall, CPS will test the remaining schools that fall into the following categories:

- Elementary schools without pre-k programs built before 1986

- High Schools built before 1986

- Elementary schools built after 1986

- High schools built after 1986



