

Summer 2015

To whom it may concern:

LSU Health Sciences Center-School of Public Health (LSUHSC) is recruiting schools and daycares for a study to evaluate the levels of lead in New Orleans' drinking water. The study is a collaborative effort between LSUHSC and the LA Office of Public Health Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LHHCLPPP).

Lead is a toxic metal found in plumbing. Children are at greatest risk from exposure- they can experience developmental delays, learning disabilities and behavioral problems.

If you elect to participate, study staff will visit your facility and provide free water collection kits. We also pay for all shipping and lab analyses. Some supplemental information will be collected by our staff to assist us in evaluating potential exposure and possible contributing factors. The staff visit lasts between 15 to 30 minutes.

You will collect water from the oldest water fountain in the early morning hours prior to any activity or water use. The best time to obtain a sample is Monday morning as longer stagnation periods represent periods at which lead levels are expected to be at their highest. Samples can be dropped off at any UPS drop box- a pre-paid shipping label and box will be provided. Results are confidential and are only provided to the head of school or their designated representative.

If high lead levels are found in your water, we may be able to identify the source based on lab results. We can also do follow-up sampling to evaluate the effectiveness of system flushing to reduce lead levels. We will also help the school evaluate other cost-effective means to reduce exposures, as needed. NSF-certified filters range from as little as \$16 to \$100 depending on the line to be serviced. If water fountains are on the EPA recall list, we will help the school contact the manufacturer and get it replaced free of charge.

If interested in participating, or if you have more questions, please contact me at the email or number below.

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