



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SUZANNE MILES GUSTAVE, ESQ.
Acting Commissioner

July 14, 2023

Dear Provider:

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is sending this friendly reminder to inform you, that we continue to offer the Lead Testing in Drinking Water Program for licensed and registered child care facilities. This voluntary program is made available by funding provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act and there is no cost for child care programs to participate in this testing initiative. OCFS has partnered with New York Environmental (NYE), a certified environmental laboratory, for testing services and laboratory analysis. Please read on to learn more about this exciting initiative!

Why is it important to test for lead in water?

- Lead is a toxic metal that is absorbed into our bodies.
- Infants and young children absorb lead at higher rates.
- Lead can cause serious physical and behavioral harm to children including slowed growth, learning disabilities, damage to the child's nervous system, behavioral issues, and hyperactivity.
- You cannot see, smell, or taste lead in water. There are no safe levels of lead. The only way to know if lead is in your water is to test for lead.
- It is important to note: the water test required by regulation currently does not test for lead.

How does my program participate in the Lead Testing in Drinking Water Program?

All it takes is just a few easy steps:

- Please visit our webpage at <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/lead-program.php> more information and to learn all the details of this program.
- Apply at <https://forms.office.com/g/KxyDjDJr52> or by scanning this QR code to access the request form on your smartphone.
- OCFS will review your request and send instructions to the email address you provide on your request form.
- The laboratory, NYE, will mail sample collection containers with a pre-paid, pre-labeled box for your no-cost return shipping.
- Once NYE receives your water samples, they will email the results. It really is that simple.



Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity to ensure that the water you are serving to the children in your program is lead free. If you have any questions, please email: ocfs.sm.watertest@ocfs.ny.gov for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nora Yates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nora Yates
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services