

# The Massachusetts Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water

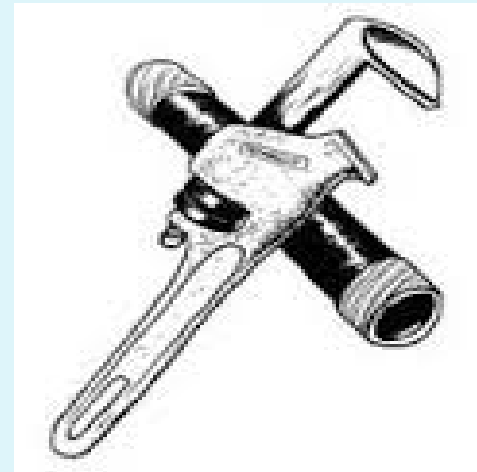
*Presentation at MWRA Community Forum on Lead in  
Drinking Water*

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# Assistance Program for Lead in Schools Drinking Water (2016)

- ▶ Voluntary program – Open to all public schools/Early Ed and Childcare Facilities (EECFs)
- ▶ Provided hands-on technical assistance and free lab analysis for one round of samples
- ▶ Goal: Give schools info so they can act
- ▶ Partnership:
  - Superintendent, Principals, Facilities Personnel
  - UMass-Amherst TA Team
  - MassDEP, MWRA, DPH, DESE
  - Local Public Water Systems



# Outputs / Findings



- ▶ **Samples** collected from;
  - 818 School Buildings in 153 Communities
  - 56,900 samples from 31,800 fixtures
- ▶ **70% of all buildings** had one or more fixture exceeding an Action Level (AL)
- ▶ **Lead – 8% of all individual samples** were above the lead AL of 0.015 mg/L.
- ▶ **Copper – 2% of all individual samples** were above the copper AL of 1.3 mg/L
- ▶ **Remediation** – Schools proactively remediated fixtures (disconnect, daily flushing, replace, “hand washing only” signs), and proactively communicated to families, staff, etc.

# Public Transparency



## Schools:

- ▶ MassDEP Online Reporting Tool for Schools – Web based online application, housed on agency website, where schools can:
  - Store sampling locations (sample plan / map)
  - View fixture specific sampling results (uploaded from eDEP)
  - Report remediation actions taken (entered by schools into tool so they can be posted along with the results)
- ▶ MassDEP posts summary of AL exceedences on agency website

## Public Water Suppliers (PWS):

- ▶ MassDEP posts 90<sup>th</sup> percentile results on agency website
- ▶ MassDEP recommendations for PWS:
  - Post lead service line (LSL) information on their web sites
  - Use eDEP for reporting monitoring results
  - Provide consumer notices as soon as possible (instead of within 30 days as required by the current regulations)
- ▶ What else is being done / what else can be done?

# After the School Assistance Program

- ▶ Recommended School Actions:
  - Complete all remediation measures (as applicable)
  - Follow the MassDEP Lead and Copper in School Drinking Water Program
  - Sample all school fixtures at least once every three years (e.g. one third each year)
  - Keep plumbing profile and sampling plan up-to-date
  - Update the MassDEP LCCA Maintenance Checklist after any sampling or programmatic change
- ▶ Final Report on the 2016 Program (on DEP's website)
- ▶ Additional schools can participate in 2nd round of Assistance Program (fall of 2017)

# Additional Information

## Lead in School Drinking Water

- ▶ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html>

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