



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
CITY OF CHICAGO

February 27, 2019

Dear DFSS Delegate Agency,

The safety of Chicago children and families are always our top priority. As you know, DFSS contractors are conducting water sample testing for lead at all DFSS funded early learning centers and sites as required by a new state law, PA 99-0922, that requires all day care centers, day care homes, and group day care homes that serve children ages birth to six years old that were constructed on or before January 1, 2000 be sampled for lead. Initial water samples must be collected and submitted for testing by **May 1, 2019**.

If any of the fixtures sampled at your sites come back with a lead level greater than 2.0 parts per billion (ppb), an assessment of the problematic fixtures will need to be completed. We will work with you to determine a remediation plan if necessary. You will also be required to:

- 1) Provide alternative drinking water sources.
- 2) Remove from service all taps with lead levels over 2.0 ppb.
- 3) Undertake efforts to determine the cause of this lead Action Level exceedance.
- 4) Replace fixtures and/or pipes.
- 5) Submit a remediation plan to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services within 120 days of receiving your lab results.
- 6) Be prepared to make referrals for lead testing to pediatricians and local community health partners.

In the meantime, we encourage you to keep the families that attend your center abreast of events related to water sample testing. We have included in this packet several resources your agency can use to communicate with parents, including:

- A template letter to parents indicating that testing is underway. Please put this letter on your agency's letterhead.
- A 2019 information sheet that you can share with families from the Environmental Defense Fund that provides a Q and A about lead in drinking water and steps families can take at home to protect themselves from lead in water. We have included both the English and Spanish versions.
- A template letter to parents indicating steps to be taken if any of the water samples come back above 2.0 ppb.

I encourage your agency to stay in close communication with families over the next few months about this process. If you have any further questions, please contact your DFSS Monitoring Team Lead.

Sincerely,

Cerathel Burgess-Burnett  
Deputy Commissioner of Children Services