

Lead in School Drinking and Childcare Drinking Water: Regulatory Review & Lessons Learned from Hands-On Sampling Programs at Over 10 School Districts and Program Administration for a Statewide Voluntary Self-Testing Program. *Joe Luchette, Scott Renneisen, Michael Messina (Terraphase Engineering), and Brent Sailhamer (PENNVEST).*

Children are particularly at risk for experiencing the adverse effects of lead exposure from a variety of sources, including drinking water. While there is no federal law requiring testing of drinking water for lead in schools that receive water from public water systems, these water systems themselves are regulated by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). However, because the LCR regulates public water systems, it does not directly address sources of lead within and throughout individual schools. Only recently (October 2019), EPA proposed a revision to the decades old LCR that would require all schools to have some level of testing. This was approved but the enforcement date has been delayed and the rule changes are under review of the new Presidential Administration.

This presentation describes Terraphase's experience using EPA's 3Ts approach (Testing, Training & Telling) to implement a lead in drinking water testing program in Philadelphia schools as well as schools nationwide. This has involved the collection of thousands of samples at several hundred school facilities and has led to an established program that includes key elements of communication, planning, and data management. Transparent, comprehensive, and clear communication is present throughout every phase from sample collection to ongoing public outreach. Planning sample collection involves establishing clear roles between key site contacts such as school principals, staff, and/or maintenance personnel, identifying sampling locations on floor plans, and developing a schedule for sampling, reporting, and communication. Data management is challenging due to the stringent reporting timeframes and the potential need to coordinate an immediate shut-off. More recently, Terraphase has launched the Pennsylvania Statewide Voluntary Testing Program for thousands of facilities. <https://LeadFee.pa.gov>. This project was made available with federal funding from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. Eligible schools and child-care facilities can receive free water lead testing and related training and technical support.