



UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS AND RESULTS

The only way to know if there is lead in your drinking water is to have it sampled and analyzed. Lead is colorless, odorless, and harmful to human health. NMED's Get the Lead Out NM (GTLO) program is a voluntary program for schools and childcare facilities to receive assistance in reducing lead in their drinking water to maintain a healthy learning environment for New Mexico's students.

1. Outlet Inventory

Before a sampling event can take place, an NMED representative consults with school officials to create an 'outlet inventory' of all drinking outlets in a facility. This step is important because it allows our staff a chance to create maps, investigate sources of drinking water, and create an accurate sampling plan to send to our laboratory.

Each facility is provided a Facility Number and each sampled outlet is provided an Outlet Number, which are combined to create the Outlet ID. Stickers showing the Outlet ID are affixed to each sampled outlet. The outlet type, location/room number, floor, and descriptive notes are all recorded to identify the sampled outlet.

Below is an example of an outlet inventory. We utilize this resource to be better able to communicate with schools and our laboratory about samples, results, and suggested remediation actions.

Name of School/Facility: <u>Example Elementary</u>			School District or Childcare Facility City: <u>Example District</u>	
Outlet ID	Outlet Type	Location / Room Number	Floor	Notes (formatted)
1426-1	Bottle Filler	In main hall outside Room 103	1	Above bubbler
1426-2	Kitchen Faucet	Kitchen 3 compartment sink faucet	1	Center faucet
1426-3	Classroom Faucet	Room 105	1	First room off of main entrance to the left
1426-4	Drinking Fountain	Gym classroom with two double yellow doors in main hallway	1	Left Fountain

2. Sampling Events

After scheduling a sampling event with facility staff, our program coordinators will send the completed ‘outlet inventory’ document to our laboratory staff. They will then prepare a sampling kit. Each sampling kit comes with two (250 ml) bottles for each outlet to be tested and Sample ID labels for each bottle.

Sample Collection

Two (2) samples will be collected at each outlet: a First Draw Sample, and a Flush sample. If lead is found in either sample, the two samples will help us determine the possible sources of contamination (i.e. fixture issue, interior plumbing issue, etc.)



First Draw Sample

Sample collected before school starts after water has sat in pipe for 8-18 hours.

Flush

Water is flushed from fixture continuously for 30 seconds.

Flush Sample

Second sample collected after the water is flushed.

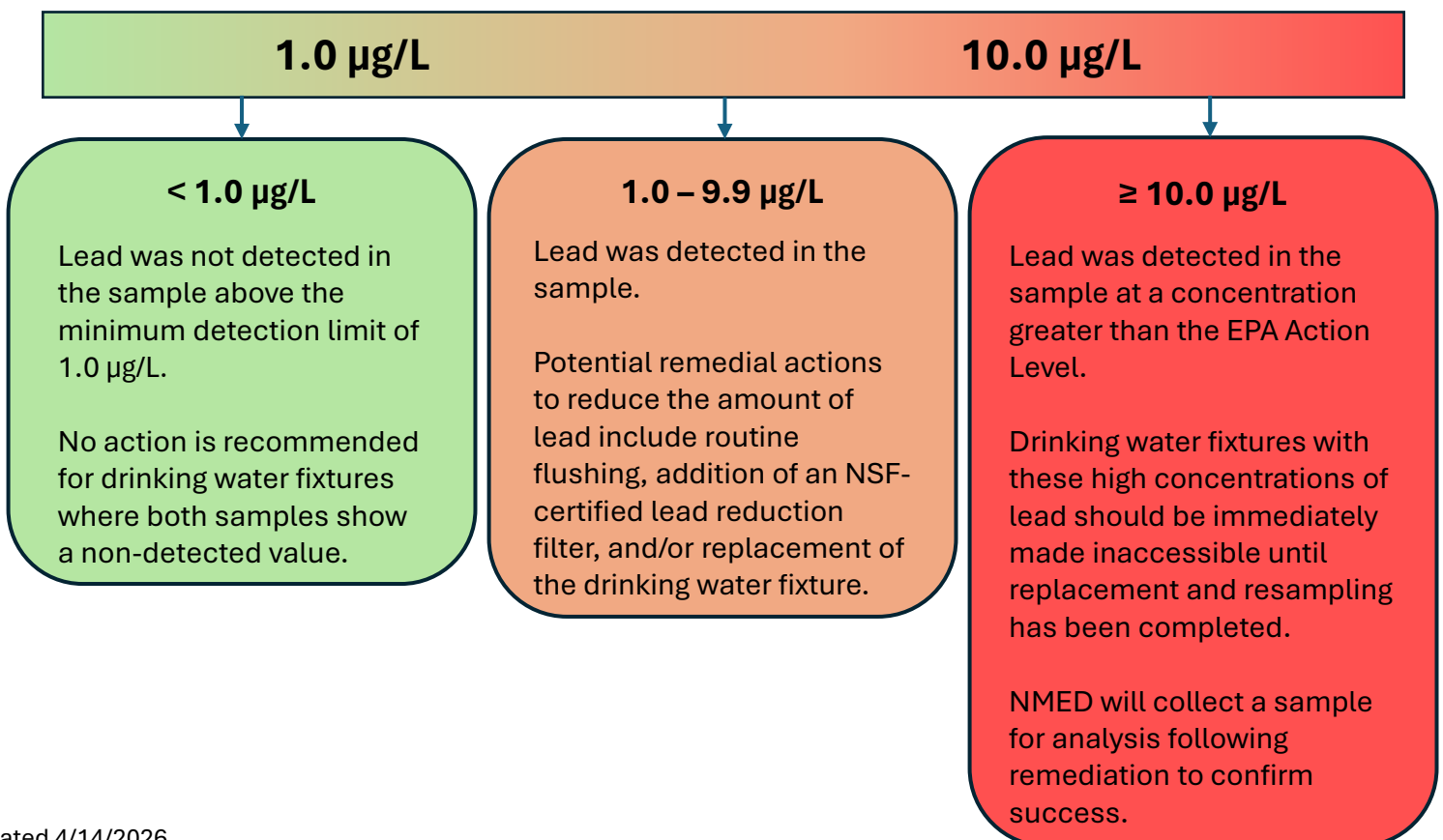
3. Results

After receiving the samples, the laboratory analyzes them and generates a report. Our program staff then organizes this report to make the data more digestible. We organize sample results into three categories: Non-Detect (<1.0 µg/L), Low Detection (1.0 – 9.9 µg/L), and High Detection (≥10.0 µg/L).

Below is an example of a results report for a location where samples were collected, remedial action was taken, then samples were collected again to verify the effectiveness of remedial actions (note: micrograms per liter (µg/L) are also known as parts per billion (ppb)).

Sample Location ID	Description	Initial Sampling Results		Remedial Action	Post Remedial Sampling Results	
		First Draw Sample, (µg/L)	Flush Sample, (µg/L)		First Draw Sample, (µg/L)	Flush Sample, (µg/L)
Non-Detect (<1.0 µg/L)						
1426-1	Bottle Filler - In main hall outside Room 103	<1.0	<1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Low Detection (1.0 – 9.9 µg/L)						
1426-2	Kitchen 3 compartment sink - center faucet	6.3	<1.0	Flushing Program Employed	N/A	N/A
1426-3	Room 105 faucet	<1.0	4.2	Filter Added	<1.0	<1.0
High Detection (≥10.0 µg/L)						
1426-4	Gym classroom left fountain - two double yellow doors in main hallway	21.4	15.7	Replaced Outlet	<1.0	<1.0

What do these numbers mean?



4. Remediation

After receiving results from our laboratory, NMED staff and/or contractors will communicate with facility staff to create a remediation plan. Each location is unique, and remediation plans can range from no recommended action at this time to replacing fixtures to larger-scale interior plumbing replacements. Following completion of remedial actions, NMED will resample the drinking water outlet location to confirm that the actions were successful at reducing lead levels.

For more information, please visit the [NMED GTLO program website](#) or email info@nmleadtesting.org

