



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Water Supply Program

NON-CONSUMPTION SIGNAGE and SIGNAGE FOR CRITICAL OUTLETS

Lead in Drinking Water - Public and Nonpublic Schools

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Rules for Non-Consumption Signage

- 1) With limited exceptions (see 3a below), signage may only be placed at non-consumption outlets (i.e., outlets not used for drinking water and/or food/drink preparation).
 - a. Signage is not acceptable at consumption outlets, such as drinking water fountains, bottle refill dispensers/water refill stations, refrigerator water dispensers, drink machines, kitchen sinks used for food/drink preparation, or outlets used for brushing teeth in schools with dormitories
 - b. Signage may be appropriate at bathroom sinks, science classroom sinks, utility/mop sinks, outside hose bibs, etc. (if not used for consumption).
 - c. Signage is not required for eyewash stations and showers. Do not sample eyewash stations and showers, as these are not valid sample sites.

- 2) Signage must be placed at a non-consumption outlet if the school is not testing that outlet.
 - a. Non-consumption outlets with signage are exempt from testing and remediation requirements.
 - b. The outlet is exempt from the requirements *only as long as the signage remains in place*.
 - c. In special education classrooms, signage may be posted at non-consumption outlets, but it will not exempt an outlet from testing or remediation requirements.

- 3) Signage may be temporarily posted at outlets with elevated lead results until remediation is successful. Please note that temporary signage is only applicable for the following outlets:
 - a. Consumption outlets solely accessible by staff; and
 - b. All non-consumption outlets.

- 4) Signs should be legible, durable, and clearly visible.
 - a. There is no specific size requirement for signs. Signs must be large enough to be visible and legible when using the outlet.
 - b. For banks/rows of sinks, such as those in bathrooms, a sign does not need to be placed at every sink. However, signage must be visible from each faucet.

The next two pages contain examples of signs to be placed at outlets not used for drinking water and/or food/drink preparation. The text portions of the signs are **editable**; Schools may use the examples as-is, alter them, delete text, or create their own signs, so long as the signage clearly indicates that the outlet is not a drinking water outlet.

MDE strongly recommends the following:

- Signs should include graphics as well as text indicating that the outlet is not to be used for consumption.
- Signs should be adapted to meet the needs of the school community (e.g., non-English speaking populations, visually impaired individuals, etc.).
- Schools provide education regarding the signage.





Rules for Signage for Critical Outlets

- 1) In order for an outlet to be considered a critical outlet:
 - a. The outlet must be accessible only to school staff; **and**
 - b. The school could not continue with normal daily operations if the outlet were closed (e.g., a kitchen sink without which the school could not provide school breakfasts).

- 2) A critical outlet found to have an elevated level of lead based on a first-draw sample may remain in service IF:
 - a. The flush sample shows a non-elevated level of lead; **and**
 - b. The school implements a temporary mitigation plan of flushing the outlet *prior to each use* to reduce lead levels until a permanent solution (e.g., replacing the outlet) is put into effect; **and**
 - c. Signage is posted at the outlet indicating a temporary mitigation plan of flushing.

- 3) In addition to posting the flushing notice signage at the critical outlets where the school intends to implement the flushing mitigation plan, MDE recommends that schools provide education regarding the signage.

Notice/Aviso



****This faucet must be flushed prior to any use.****

Run water from this faucet for a minimum of 30 seconds before use.

****Este grifo debe ser enjuagado antes de cualquier uso.****

Correr el agua de este grifo por un mínimo de 30 segundos antes de usar.

Building/Edificio: _____

Room/Sala: _____

Date/Fecha: _____

Questions? Please contact: / ¿Preguntas? Contactarse con:

Name/Nombre: _____

Phone/Teléfono: _____

Email/Dirección: _____