Thank you for participating in RTI International's Clean Water for Carolina Kids™ program to help protect children's health and to meet requirements associated with rule amendment 15A NCAC 18A .2816 (Lead Poisoning Hazards in Child Care Centers) for child care center licensure.

We received the 1 water samples you collected. Your center’s samples were analyzed at our laboratory on JULY 20, 2021. This letter provides additional information about our analysis method and your center’s results.

Your Child Care Center’s Water Results

We did detect lead in your center’s drinking and cooking water samples. Table 1 shows that these levels range from 6.67 to 6.67 ppb.

Table 1. Laboratory Analytical Results and Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alert</th>
<th>Sample ID</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Lead (ppb)</th>
<th>Recommendation Type (see Table 2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W22956</td>
<td>Kitchen Sink</td>
<td>Kitchen/Cafeteria Kitchen</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>Lead detected at or above 5 ppb and below 10 ppb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use no-cost solutions and low-cost solutions.

Figure 1. Illustration of Recommended Risk Mitigation Based on Test Results for Each Tap.

- There is no safe level of lead exposure for children; therefore, we recommend taking proactive, no-cost measures for all drinking and cooking water to practice clean water habits.
- We recommend low-cost risk mitigation measures for taps that contain lead above 1 ppb.
- For taps with lead above 5 ppb, we strongly recommend low-cost risk mitigation measures.
- For taps with lead above 10 ppb, stop water use immediately, post a Do Not Use sign at this tap, and a state or local health official visit will be scheduled to conduct confirmatory testing.

Table 2 provides specific recommendations to remove lead from drinking and cooking water.

Table 2. Recommendations to Remove Lead from Drinking and Cooking Water.
### Detection Level

**Lead not detected above detection limit (0.1 ppb) OR detected below 1 ppb**

- **Clean water habits**
  
  Practicing no-cost clean water habits is always an easy way to reduce or eliminate exposure to lead in drinking water.

- **Risk Mitigation Recommendation**
  
  - **Designate taps** used for drinking and cooking. Place designated use signs for children and staff to understand which taps are for consumption or other purposes (e.g., handwashing).
  
  - **Keep it cold:** Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, or preparing infant formula.
  
  - **Clean the faucet:** Remove and rinse loose debris from faucet strainers/aerators regularly.
  
  - **Empower parents, staff, and students:** Communicate the center’s findings and clean water actions to parents, staff members, and children.

**Lead detected at or above 1 ppb**

- **We recommend you also use low cost solutions**
  
  The goal for lead exposure is 0. These low-cost solutions can help reduce or eliminate lead at or above 1 ppb.

- **Risk Mitigation Recommendation**
  
  - **Install and maintain certified water filters:** Install a water filter certified to remove lead at the point-of-use for drinking and cooking taps. Ensure that the filter is maintained and filter replacement follows manufacturer specifications. One cost-saving option is to designate one clean tap (i.e., one faucet for drinking and cooking) and use a filter on that faucet only. Other faucets may continue to be used for non-potable use with proper signage (e.g., handwashing).
  
  - **Replace faucet fixtures:** Sometimes the faucet fixture is the source of lead. Hiring a plumber to change a faucet fixture to a non-brass/non-chrome (stainless steel for example) fixture may reduce or eliminate the level of lead detected.
  
  - **Fix clogs:** If you have plumbing backups, have a plumber fix the clog and reduce lead particulate that may enter the water.
  
  - **Let it run:** Let cold water run from the tap for 1–5 minutes prior to use, after periods of inactivity (e.g., first thing in the morning and after holiday breaks), or even before each use.
  
  - **Replace water fountains and/or water coolers:** Consider replacing existing water fountains and water coolers with a new fountain or water cooler dispenser that meets the current and most stringent lead-reduction regulations; ensure these new products are also equipped with certified filtration systems. If this is not feasible, consider designating a nearby tap without detectable lead for drinking and cooking and shutting off the fountain with proper signage.
  
  - **Use lead-free hoses:** Post a designated sign (e.g., “Water Play Only”). Purchase an NSF-certified lead-free hose in case children incidentally ingest water during play.
  
  - **Use lead-free products for drinking and eating:** Use certified lead-free water coolers for the playground or outside; as well as lead-free cups and dishware for drinking and eating.

**Lead detected at or above 5 ppb**

- **We STRONGLY recommend you use the low cost solutions noted above**

**Lead detected above 10 ppb**

- **Do not use water source:** Immediately stop use at the problem tap. Post “Do Not Use” signage and cover the tap in tape so it cannot be turned on.

- **State support**
  
  A health official will visit for follow-up testing and support. You are required to follow these short-term measures while waiting for support.

- **Provide alternate drinking water sources:** Use water from another tap that was designated as clean for drinking or cooking, have children bring in their own bottled water from home, or purchase bottled water while waiting for health department support.

- **The state or your local Health Department will contact you** for a follow-up testing visit to confirm the test result and help fix the problem using low-cost solutions, with test confirmation that lead has been removed.

---

https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/results?facility_id=78000189
Per state requirements, this data is publicly available on our mapper. We encourage you to share this data with the parents leaving their kids at your center by including this link to your results https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/data/center/78000189 in an email or on your website. Additionally, you may login to the portal to report any mitigation steps you've taken at each of your sampled taps.

Analysis Method

RTI's Trace Metals Laboratory is certified by the state of North Carolina for the analysis of lead in drinking water by Environmental Protection Agency Method 200.8; our Trace Metals Laboratory also has passed the state performance evaluation. We preserve samples by immediately adding nitric acid prior to laboratory analysis. Our scientists use state-of-the-science laboratory equipment that allows us to detect lead in drinking water at a level as low as 0.1 part per billion (ppb), which is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/L); 0.1 ppb equals less than a drop in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

If you have questions, please check out our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) responses. If your question or comment is not addressed in the FAQ you can contact staff at the Clean Water for Carolina Kids™ Program partnership at our contact page (https://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/contact) or via phone at 1-888-997-9290. This contact support page will route your questions and comments to program staff, including directors Mr. Ed Norman at the NC Division of Public Health and Ms. Jennifer Hoponick Redmon of RTI International.