An Expansion of the Clean Water for Carolina Kids Program

Lead and Asbestos Program

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Clean Classrooms™
For Carolina Kids
An Expansion of the Clean Water for Carolina Kids Program

North Carolina Department of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
NC DHHS has been contracting with RTI International since 2020 for the Clean Water for Carolina Kids program to identify and eliminate exposure to lead in water at licensed child care facilities across NC.

This work is being expanded to the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program to identify and restrict or mitigate exposure to lead in water, lead-based paint, and asbestos hazards at public schools and child care facilities across NC.
1) Lead and Asbestos Background
2) Clean Water for Carolina Kids Summary
3) Program Overview
4) Participation
   • Water
   • Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos
5) Preparing for Enrollment
6) Questions
Lead and Asbestos Background
Occurrence, Health Effects of Exposure, Rules, Funding, and Program Organization
Lead and Asbestos Occurrence in Buildings

Lead use in paint, especially before 1978 ban

Lead use in water infrastructure (federal restrictions in effect in 1988 and 2014)

Asbestos use in building materials, especially before 1988
Exposure to lead and asbestos is a public health concern, especially for children

Health effects from lead exposure include:
- Hearing and speech problems
- Damage to the brain and nervous system
- Learning and behavior problems
- Slowed growth and development

This can cause irreversible, lifelong, and cumulative effects:
- Lower IQ
- Decreased ability to pay attention
- Underperformance in school

Health effects from asbestos exposure increases the likelihood of several cancers:
- Laryngeal Cancer
- Mesothelioma Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Ovarian Cancer

There is no safe level of lead or asbestos exposure
NC Rule
Requirements
NC 10A NCAC 41C.1001-1007
NC 154A NCAC 18A.2816

As this is a legislatively mandated effort to address lead and asbestos hazards in public schools and child care centers, NC facilities are required by law to make sure all requirements are met.

1. Test for lead in drinking/cooking water (.1005 and .2816)
2. Identify lead-based paint hazards (.1004)
3. Identify asbestos hazards (.1003)
4. Mitigate or restrict any hazards identified
   a) Water mitigation is included (fixture replacements and filters)
   b) Reimbursement for lead-based paint and asbestos mitigation (fully for child care facilities and 2/3 reimbursement for schools)
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are allocated to address lead and asbestos

- Lead and asbestos remediation in public school units and child care facilities: $150,000,000
  - Lead in drinking water: $32,812,500
  - Lead-based paint and asbestos: $117,187,500

Source: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/10a-ncac-41c-perm-rules-5-9-2023/download?attachment
Program Organization and Support

• Contract Management: NC DHHS
• Program Management: RTI
  • Lead in Drinking and Cooking Water Testing and Mitigation
  • Lead-Based Paint Risk Assessments and Testing
  • Asbestos Inspections, Re-inspections, and Testing
  • Overall program management

• Liaisons
  • NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI)
  • NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)

• Lead-based paint/Asbestos Mitigation:
  • Facilities choose to restrict or mitigate any identified hazards
  • Facilities submit reimbursement request to the NC DHHS Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU) ARPA reimbursement fund
Clean Water for Carolina Kids
Lightning Summary
Why RTI?

For this program, we are building off our award-winning, community-engaged approach to improve children’s environmental health in child care and school facilities.

2020 Harvard University Roy Award for Environmental Partnership

2020 EBJ Business Achievement Award for Project Merit

2021 Community Partnership Award - Recognizing People Working Together to Build Better Communities
Our Approach

- Potential Risk Mitigation
- Enrollment
- Participatory Science Training
- Communication
- Results
- Participatory Science Testing
- Lab Analysis
- Shipping
**Clean Water for Carolina Kids Program findings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4,614 child care facilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25,331 samples</td>
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</table>

75% samples and 92% facilities with detectable lead (0.1 part per billion (ppb) or above)

12% facilities and 3.4% samples with tap > 10 ppb

Significant variation in lead by tap within same building

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lead in Water by Outlet Type</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>outlet type</th>
<th>above 1 ppb</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water fountains</td>
<td>1 in 5</td>
<td>3 in 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen, cafeteria, food sinks</td>
<td>1 in 3</td>
<td>4 in 100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note that testing is ongoing*
Program Overview
Objective:
To identify and eliminate exposure to lead and asbestos hazards where North Carolina children learn and play
Program Participation

- **Free testing/inspections**: lead in drinking and cooking water, lead-based paint, and asbestos

- **Free water mitigation** (fixtures, filters)

- **Meets all rule requirements**

- **Cost reimbursement** for qualified lead-based paint and asbestos abatement for centers and 2/3 of school costs

Clean Classrooms™
For Carolina Kids
Who is included in the rule requirement and covered with the available funding?

- Licensed Child Care Centers
- Family Child Care Homes
- Public Schools, including Charter Schools
Outreach Prioritization

Prioritization is based on risk factors for lead and asbestos occurrence, health effects of exposure, and funding need.

Criteria:

- Child care centers and elementary school facilities
- >50% of students receive free and reduced lunch
- >50% of students are non-white
- Building built prior to 1988

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<td>1 (Highest priority)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Meet 3/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meet 2/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Meet 1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (Lowest priority)</td>
<td>Meet 0/4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Facilities will receive an email to enroll with RTI from the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (for child care centers) or NC Department of Public Instruction (for public schools).
1) Attend a pre-enrollment webinar to receive the pin to enroll online at www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina

2) Watch the video training to help you complete the three surveys for lead in water, lead-based paint, and asbestos, respectively.

3) We will notify you about next steps once you submit your enrollment surveys from:

Clean Water for US Kids
<noreply@cleanwaterforuskids.org>
Water Participation
**State Requirements**

- Collect water samples using EPA 3Ts
  - we provide training and instructions
- Restrict access to taps exceeding state action level
  - we provide sign templates and instructions
- Make results available for taps above lead action level
  - online facility data mapper and communication toolkit available

**Program Support**

- RTI provides mail-out sample kits and pre-paid return mailing labels
- RTI analyzes samples
- RTI returns results with recommended next steps
- RTI makes results available online after 5 business days
- RTI provides ongoing communication support

**Mitigation Support**

- Install Faucet Fixtures
- Install Water Fountains with Bottle Fillers and Built-In Filter
- Install Certified Filters

**Not Included:**
- Water Filter Maintenance
- Piping Or Plumbing Changes
- Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR)*

*Facilities should connect with utility and state Department of Environmental Quality if needed.
Overview of Section

Facility staff attend pre-enrollment webinar

Primary facility contact reviews water training video to complete online survey

Our team sends sample kit(s) to your facility

Trained facility staff collect and ship samples

Samples analyzed at certified laboratory

Our team sends results and recommendations

Facility staff notify community of results

Risk mitigation conducted, if needed

Share participation plans with community throughout the process (see communication toolkit)
Who should enroll your facility?

- One or more staff familiar with facility’s building layout.
- Staff familiar with water usage patterns tap to tap.
- Staff who will collect and ship water samples properly.
What Information is Needed?

- Building Information
- Student Demographics
- Drinking and Cooking Taps (Name and Location)
- Other Taps in Facility (Number)
- Taps with Water Filters (Tap Name and Filter Type/Brand)
- Drinking Water Supply
Facility Data Mapper
Type address, name, or look by county to see results by facility and tap along with risk mitigation actions
Water Mitigation (for taps > 10 ppb)

**Restrict Tap**
Turn it off, tape handle, and post Do Not Use sign

**Replace Faucet**
Fixure or Water Fountain

**Install Lead-Certified**
Water Filter installed on critical taps

**Follow-Up Testing**
for taps > 150 ppb

[www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/howto](http://www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/howto)
• Local health or regional environmental health specialist will coordinate onsite visit to collect post-mitigation samples for the mitigated tap(s)

• Samples sent directly to state lab for analysis

• Facility staff need to only coordinate the onsite visit

• Results shared with facility and available online after 5 business days

• If water is still > 10 ppb lead, facility should post “do not use” signage and await additional support

• When needed, share results with your utility and the NC Department of Environmental Quality to consider additional funding support with NC Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

• Individualize our Drinking Water Management Plan template for your facility (e.g., plans to flush water after breaks and maintain any water filters)
If there are insufficient resources to complete the double barrier approach at all outlets exceeding the NC hazard level statewide, we will help facilities reduce the number of designated drinking taps and use water fountains with a built-in bottle filler/filter.

If post-mitigation results are still above the North Carolina hazard level, facilities will receive guidance about checking for LSLs, a referral to the NC Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and information about bottled water usage, as building plumbing and LSL replacement will not be covered under the program.

Facilities may also receive guidance to develop a Drinking Water Management Plan for maintaining installed water filters to ensure lead-free drinking water over time.
## Aid to Counties to Support the Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Population &lt; 18 years</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Allocation ($/K Min)</th>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Population &lt; 18 years</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Allocation ($/K Min)</th>
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<td>0.31%</td>
<td>$3,081</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total NC**: 2,294,973  
**$961,676**

*Weight based on NC Population Under 18 years.

Lead-Based Paint & Asbestos Participation
State Requirements

- Conduct onsite inspection by certified/accredited professional – OR – submit documentation of prior inspection or building age exemption for verification
  - Our team will conduct onsite inspections and/or review documentation

- Restrict or mitigate identified hazards
  - Our team will provide recommended actions

- Make results available
  - Online facility data mapper and communication toolkit available

Program Support

- Review and verify submitted documentation
- Coordinate onsite inspection, if needed
- Provide recommended actions for restricting or mitigating any identified hazards
- Share results directly with the facility and post on facility data mapper after 5 business days

Mitigation Support

- Reimburse up to 2/3 of abatement costs for schools
- Reimburse in full for child care facilities (including pre-K, Head Start, and afterschool programs within schools)
Attend this pre-enrollment webinar. Primary facility contact reviews training videos to complete online surveys. Our team reviews surveys. If needed, our team assigns certified and/or accredited professional(s). Professional(s) visits facility and collects samples as needed. Samples analyzed at accredited laboratory. Our team sends results and recommended action items. Facility staff notify parents, staff, and students using our public results page. Facilities restrict access or mitigate any identified hazards. Facilities request reimbursement from NC DHHS.
Who should enroll your facility?

- One or more staff familiar with prior facility inspections.
- Staff that could oversee efforts to restrict or mitigate hazards.
- Local Education Agency’s AHERA Designated Person (for schools).
What Information is Needed?

- Building information
- Student demographics
- Previous inspection (If applicable)
- Any concerns about lead-based paint or asbestos exposure
- Past and planned building renovations
- Documentation of prior inspection or building age exemption, if applicable
Additional documentation may be requested to verify the prior inspection meets the rule requirements and any identified hazards have been addressed.

**Lead-Based Paint**
- Prior inspection exemption:
  - Lead risk assessment report*
- Building age exemption (post-1978):
  - Lead-based paint-free attestation

**Asbestos**
- Prior inspection exemption:
  - Asbestos management plan or reinspection report*
- Building age exemption (post-1988):
  - AHERA asbestos inspection exemption letters for all buildings

*Additional documentation may be requested to verify the prior inspection meets the rule requirements and any identified hazards have been addressed.
Lead and Asbestos Remediation in Public School Units and Child Care Facilities Timeline

- Temporary Rules in Effect April 29, 2022
- Assigned as ARPA Program Lead September 2022
- Reimbursement Budget in Place October 2022
- Permanent Rules in Effect April 1, 2023
- Hired 3 Temporary Staff March 2023 (PC-II, IHC, BSC-II), aka- ARPA Team
- Signed Contract with RTI International to Conduct Inspections April 2023
- Forms Complete to Reimburse Public Schools and Child Cares
- Website Complete
- Reimbursement Program Went Live May 1, 2023
Lead and Asbestos Remediation in Public School Units and Child Care Facilities

- Permanent Rule Requirements:
  - Inspect for Asbestos and LBP Hazards Using RTI Vendors
  - All Hazards Require Restricting Access Until Abated or Interim Control Used
  - Notifications Required 10 Calendar Days Before Disturbing Asbestos or LBP
  - Use NC Accredited or Certified LBP Individuals
  - Priority to Conduct Compliance Inspections by HHCU Inspectors
  - Clearance Required
  - Within 45 Days of Completing Inspection Notify HHCU of Any Identified Hazard
  - Within 45 Days Following Abatement Submit Documentation to HHCU
Lead and Asbestos Remediation in Public School Units and Child Care Facilities

- Public Schools and Child Care Facilities Built After October 12, 1988, are Exempted from Asbestos Inspections by Providing Appropriate Documentation
- Public Schools Providing a Current Management Plan or Reinspection Report are Exempted from the Inspection Requirement, but Samples less than 10% Asbestos may be Retested if a Hazard has been Identified
- Child Care Facilities Built Before October 12, 1988, will be Inspected for Asbestos and Asbestos Hazards
- Public Schools and Child Care Facilities Built After February 28, 1978, are Exempted from Lead Risk Assessment by Providing Appropriate Documentation
- Public Schools and Child Care Facilities Providing a Current Lead Risk Assessment are Exempted for the Risk Assessment but may be Retested if a Hazard has been Identified
Lead and Asbestos Remediation in Public School Units and Child Care Facilities

- Public Schools and Child Care Facilities Seeking Reimbursement Must Submit Required Forms and Supporting Documentation
- ARPA Team will Review Submitted Packet and Address Discrepancies
- First Come First Served During Year One
- Decision to Prioritize Reimbursement will be Based Upon Available Funding
- Replacement Materials are Reimbursable if a SDS, Manufacturer Letter or Lab Results Documents less than 1% Asbestos or Less Than 90 PPM LBP
- Project Ends December 31, 2026, or Until the Funds are Depleted
- Summary Reports Due to 2 Joint Legislative Committees
Lead and Asbestos Remediation in Public School Units and Child Care Facilities

- Hold Off Submitting a Reimbursement Packet Until the Work has Been Completed and Completely Paid for, Then Submit all Documentation for Reimbursement
- Use the Checklist on the Web Page as a Guide to Help You
- The Substitute W-9 Address Must Match the Remittance Address
- Check Your Math and Make Sure the Reimbursement Packet Agrees With the Submitted Documentation or Expect a Reduction in Reimbursement

Read the Frequently Asked Questions

Complete the Appropriate ARPA Reimbursement Form

Complete a Current, Signed and Dated Substitute W-9 Form

Collect ALL Quotes, Contracts, POs, Invoices, Proof of Payments Applicable for Each Project to Document Reimbursement

Submit Reimbursement Packet to the Following Email: ARPA-Reimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov
Lead and Asbestos Remediation in Public School Units and Child Care Facilities

- After the ARPA Teams Completes Their Review, a Direct Pay Letter and Supporting Documentation Will be Sent to the Budget Office
- The Budget Office Will Review, Sign and Then Submit to the Controller’s Office
- A Payment Confirmation Letter will be Emailed to the Contact on the ARPA Reimbursement Form
- The Controller’s Office Will Review, Sign and Process a Check
- Public Schools are Eligible for 2/3 Reimbursement for Applicable Asbestos, LBP Abatement, LBP-RRP or Remediation Projects and Replacement Materials not Exceeding Asbestos and LBP Threshold Amounts
Lead and Asbestos Remediation in Public School Units and Licensed Child Care Facilities

Questions?

Submit Questions to the Following Email: ARPA-Reimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov

Preparing for Enrollment
Engage Your Community

Before water sampling or onsite visits
Inform your community about your participation in this program.
(view our communication toolkit)

After completion
Share results and mitigation plans or actions with your community.
(view our communication toolkit and facility data mapper)

Communicate early and often about plans, results and next steps.
At peak times, up to 419 schools tested per quarter and 32 schools tested per week.
Frequently Asked Questions

- General Program Questions
- Lead in Water: Questions about Enrollment
- Lead in Water: Questions about Sampling
- Lead in Water: Questions about Results and Taking Action
- Lead-based Paint: Questions about Enrollment
- Lead-based Paint: Questions about Risk Assessment and Testing
- Lead-based Paint: Questions about Results and Taking Action
- Asbestos: Questions about Enrollment
- Asbestos: Questions about Inspections or Reinspections
- Asbestos: Questions about Results and Taking Action
- Communicating with your Community
- State Rules and Requirements

www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina/faq
Contact Us by Call, Text, or Email

Contact Us

If you have a question or issue, please fill out and submit the question form below. We aim to respond to questions within two business days. If it has been longer than that we are working on resolving your issue and will respond to you as quickly as possible. Please refrain from duplicate tickets while awaiting a response.

Please note that comments and calls go to the same team, so you do not need to leave both a voicemail and a message.

Your Name*
Enter Your Name...

Your Email Address*
Enter Your Email Address...

Question Type*
Choose...

Describe Question*
Please describe your feedback in detail

Your facility’s name*
Enter the name of your facility

Submit Question

Call or text 1-888-997-9290

Email at www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina/contact
Asbestos Section Training

In this video, Lisa, Kelly, and John will walk you through the steps needed to complete the asbestos section of the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program.
How do I enroll my facility?

• Enroll by facility, not by district

• Facilities choose who they would like to participate in the process

• Once you receive the pin at the end of the live webinar, you can subsequently enroll online
• NC local and regional environmental health specialists

• Liaisons: NC Department of Child Development and Early Education and Department of Public Instruction

• School and child care staff

• You!

Thank you for helping to identify and eliminate exposure to lead and asbestos hazards where NC children learn and play
Thank you for taking steps to protect children from lead and asbestos hazards across NC!

Questions & Comments?

- Contact Us, visit bit.ly/3CK-contact
- Call/Text 1-855-997-2864

Enroll at bit.ly/3CK-enroll
FAQs, visit bit.ly/3CK-faq