

Reading's Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Plan

MassDEP Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Monitoring/Plan

In 2016, The Federal Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, began to require all State Environmental Agencies, like MassDEP, to begin enforcing the Federal Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) of 2001. This Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) directly holds Early Education, School and Child Care Facilities accountable and responsible for Lead and Copper sampling and monitoring within their facilities. In April 2016, The Town of Reading Public Schools Department, working together with the Reading Facilities Department and Reading Water Department created and put forth into continued action the Town's Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Plan that meets and exceed all current MassDEP and EPA LCCA requirements. Reading's LCCA Plan is a full Town wide comprehensive plan that minimizes the potential for elevated Lead and Copper levels in drinking water offered in all of our Town Public Schools, Buildings and Water Fountains.

Reading's Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Monitoring/Plan

The Town of Reading Water Department and the Reading Public Schools have been, and continue to be, very proactive in their testing and remediation program for lead and copper found in our school's drinking water. Since 2016, Reading's Lead & Copper School Water Testing Program has followed all recommendations and guidelines put forth by both the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These guidelines are stated in the MassDEP's & EPA's Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) that was established to reduce and remediate lead and copper in the drinking water of schools and childcare facilities. Furthermore; Reading went an additional step beyond LCCA Regulations and lowered the Town Action Level (AL) of any lead found in our school's drinking water from 15 ug/L (Microgram per Liter) or ppb (Parts Per Billion) to 12 ug/L or ppb. This additional precaution was done by the Town to further its concern and protection for welfare of Reading Students, Teachers and Staff that all consume Reading School water.

In Reading's Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Plan, all Town Public drinking water sources in all Town schools, buildings and parks have been identified, mapped, cataloged then tested for both lead and copper in their water offered. All possible Town or School drinking water sources were identified including all water fountains (both bubbler and water cooler style), kitchen sinks & kettles, classroom combination sinks & fountains, home economics room sinks, teachers' lounge sinks, employee cafe sinks, nurse's office sinks, sinks in special education classrooms, and any other fixtures known or thought to be used for water consumption. If any testing result is found in any water source that exceeds Reading's high Water Quality Action Level Standard, swift action is taken to isolate, investigate, address, remediate, retest then move to fully resolve that concern. The Town is confident that all offered water from any water source in any of Reading's Public Schools, Buildings or Parks provides tested and certified safe high quality drinking water that is free from any Lead or Copper Action Limit violation.

In 2016 Reading's LCCA catalog map of these drinking water sources from each school was accessed as a whole body of consumable water sources within each school specifically. Each School's water sources were divided into three segmented parts. Each one third (1/3) part represents an equal one third (1/3) portion of the sum of all the consumable water source types within that specific schools water sources. One of those one third (1/3) parts of the water sources in each school were sampled and tested in May of 2016.

From that initial 2016 testing, three schools, Killam, Coolidge and Birch Meadow, had Lead levels higher than the action level. When we found that those three schools seemed to have issues, the Town Departments involved met, and then set forth a path of best action. It was determined that those three schools with high lead levels, Killam, Birch Meadow and Coolidge, were then fully mapped and tested in 2016 for all of their water sources. All other Reading Public Schools had no Lead levels above the Action Limit for their 1/3 tested portion, so they were scheduled to be fully

mapped and tested in the later years to follow. Reading set forth a LCCA Sampling Schedule based on the 2016 data that addressed all schools on a set priority schedule and plan to sample.

Reading's Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Plan is regarded as a state model plan and Reading was actually awarded the MassDEP STAR L Award in 2018. This award is given to select Public Water Systems (PWS) and School Departments who take action to reduce lead in school drinking water and do so with extremely encouraging results. The Award is given to both the PWS and the School District as they both diligently work together in tandem testing, addressing and maintaining their ongoing efforts. Below is the link for Reading's LCCA Award:

<https://www.mass.gov/news/massdep-announces-winners-of-2018-public-water-system-awards>

In 2019, the Town completed 100% Full Mapping and Testing of all of Reading's Schools with the final two last schools wrapped up, Reading Memorial High School (RMHS) and Parker Middle School (Parker), as part of Reading's Pre-Determined LCCA Schedule listed in the Plan.

Reading's LCCA Action Plan is an active ongoing program that continues each year with annual school water Lead and Copper testing through Reading's Determined LCCA School Sampling Schedule that is thorough, effective and set forth within the plan itself. Additionally, if any School has any new plumbing work done within the school on any drinkable water source, that source is retested and confirmed to have no Lead or Copper Action Level Violation.

We have great resources here in Reading with our many very proactive Departments each working together to assure that the safety and health concerns for our Students, Faculty and Staff are kept up to the highest level. The Town of Reading and the Reading School Department are proud to offer and confirm safe, clean, high quality tested drinking water in all of our Reading Schools, Buildings and Facilities today and in the future.

Along with other information regarding Lead and Copper in Drinking Water, Reading Water Quality Testing, MWRA, MassDEP and EPA links, please find Readings LCCA Plan, Source Mapping and Testing Results all online and available from the Water Quality Page of the Town of Reading's Website listed below:

<https://www.readingma.gov/water-division/pages/water-qualitysupply>

If there are any further questions or concerns regarding Reading's LCCA Plan, feel free to contact Erik Mysliwy, Reading's Water Quality & DPW Safety Administrator via phone, 781-942-9092 x1215 or through email at emysliwy@ci.reading.ma.us or contact the Reading Public Schools Administration Offices at 781-944-5800 or through email at: <https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/about-us/contact-us/>