

Tap Talk – Tips on Drinking Water in Your Schools

Over the summer, the water use in school buildings is much less than during the school year. When water sits stagnant in the plumbing, lead and copper may leach into the drinking water. The following tips are important before the start of school:

1 – Consider replacing old fixtures and accessible connecting plumbing with certified lead-free materials where children drink the water or water is used for food preparation.

2 - Inspect and clean the aerators and screens on sinks that could be used for drinking or food preparation.

3 – Run the water! Open every tap and let the water run for at least 5 minutes. Focus specifically on locations where children drink the water or water is used for food preparation.

Funding will be available beginning October 1, 2016 for the statewide school drinking water quality program through the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). MDE will reimburse public schools and registered nonpublic schools up to \$950 per school building for drinking water testing, fixture replacements, plumbing assessments, or filter purchase for expenses incurred between July 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. Eligible districts will seek reimbursement approval through Michigan Electronic Grant System Plus (MEGS+). Once approved in MEGS+, eligible districts can submit reimbursement request through the Cash Management System (CMS). The MDE will provide additional information regarding the funding in the coming weeks.

For questions on drinking water sampling, see the MDEQ Drinking Water website at www.michigan.gov/drinkingwater.