



November 4, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians and our Staff:

By law, all Vermont schools and child care providers are required to test for lead in drinking water and fix any issues when lead is found above an established action level. The intent of the law is to protect children, students, and staff from lead in these settings.

The health and safety of the children in our care and of our employees is our priority, and we are working quickly to check our system for lead.

The drinking water at The Family Place will be tested for lead in the next few weeks. We will collect water samples from all taps that are used for drinking and cooking and send the samples to a certified drinking water lab for analysis.

Why is lead a concern?

Lead poisoning can slow down a child's growth, development, and learning and can cause behavior problems. Children absorb lead more easily than adults, so they are at a higher risk for lead poisoning.

How does lead get into drinking water?

Lead rarely occurs naturally in water supplies. However, lead can get into drinking water through contact with lead pipes, plumbing fixtures and solder.

How will I be notified of the results?

You will be sent a summary of the results within 10 days after we receive the test results from the laboratory.

What will happen if there is lead in the drinking water at the facility?

Any tap that tests at or above the action level will be taken out of use for consumption. Once we fix the issue, and follow-up testing shows the lead level is at or below the action level, the tap can be used again.

We want lead levels in drinking water to be as low as possible. We will find the most effective means of fixing the problem. There are many easy and low-cost fixes to reduce lead in drinking water, including removing seldom-used fixtures or encouraging the use of filtered and properly maintained bottle fill stations.

How do children come in contact with lead?

Exposure to lead is a public health concern in Vermont. Potential sources include dust from deteriorated lead-based paint and products, including toys, keys, jewelry, pottery, dishes, imported candy and foods, and antique, vintage or salvaged goods. Lead can also be found in

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contaminated soil and old plumbing pipes and fixtures. While a major source of lead poisoning in Vermont children is paint, the lead in plumbing pipes and fixtures can add to a child's overall lead exposure.

To learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention, visit HealthVermont.gov/lead.

Can I test the water in my home for lead?

Yes. If you want to test your home drinking water for lead, find a list of certified drinking water labs at TinyURL.com/certified-lab.

Where can I get more information?

For questions about the water testing process, or about the law and its requirements, please call the Lead in School and Child Care Drinking Water Program at 802-863-7220 or 800-439-8550 (toll-free in Vermont).

To contact someone at The Family Place about the testing:

- Call Sasha Garfinkle at 802-698-2753
- Visit: www.familyplacevt.org

General information and a link to the summary of school or child care results and remediation, are online at HealthVermont.gov/LeadTesting. (NOTE: If your child's preschool or after school program is located at a school, the results will be listed under the school's name.)

Sincerely,



Sasha Garfinkle
Operations Manager

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Lead poisoning is a serious but preventable health problem. Lead is a highly toxic metal that has been commonly used in many products—such as paint, solder, batteries, brass, car radiators and pottery. Too much lead in the body, or lead poisoning, can cause serious and permanent health problems. Lead can hurt the brain, kidneys and nervous system. There is **no** safe level of lead in the body.

Lead is most dangerous to young children who can come in contact with lead in a number of ways.

Lead Paint

Dust from lead paint is the major source of lead poisoning. In 1978, lead was banned from house paint. Most homes built before that time are likely to contain lead. Children can be exposed to lead during renovation projects or from chipping, peeling or cracked paint. Lead dust can be breathed in or swallowed.



Lead in Soil and Drinking Water

Soil may contain lead from lead paint that flakes off the outside of buildings and from exhaust when there was leaded gasoline. Lead can get into drinking water as it moves through older lead pipes, plumbing fixtures or solder.

Other Sources of Lead

Children can get lead poisoning from other sources that may contain lead.

- **Lead in workplaces or on parent's clothes:** construction and renovation work, auto repair and work with batteries, plumbing, welding and soldering.
- **Lead in pots and dishes:** glazed pottery and metal pots with lead solder.
- **Lead in antiques, vintage and salvaged goods:** older furniture, building materials and other items, even if they look bare.
- **Lead in products:** toys and jewelry made in other countries, imported candy (especially from Mexico), imported cans of food, spices and spice mixtures (especially if they come directly from other countries), metal keys, imported make-up and home remedies.
- **Lead in crafts and sports:** stained glass, bullets, fishing sinkers and artist's paints.



Prevent Lead Poisoning

Prevent lead poisoning in children by maintaining your home in good condition, cleaning in a lead-safe way, and eating healthy foods.

- Wash children's hands before eating and sleeping, and wash toys often to remove invisible lead dust.
- Serve snacks and meals to children at the table or in their high chairs.
- Repair chipped, peeling or cracked paint. Keep children from these areas until fixed.
- Wet mop floors, and wet clean surfaces with disposable towels, use a vacuum with a HEPA filter and vacuum slowly.
- Use lead-safe practices during renovations, such as wet sanding and wet scraping, and do not use a belt sander or heat gun.
- Plant food gardens in lead-free soil that is at least three feet away from buildings and busy roads.
- Leave shoes at the door to prevent tracking soil that may contain lead into the house.
- Test your water. Find a lab and order a Lead in Drinking Water Test Kit at tinyurl.com/certified-lab.



For more information about lead hazards and lead poisoning, call 800-439-8550 or visit healthvermont.gov/lead.