



## \*ATTENTION\*

### Important Change to Administrative Rule Regarding Testing for Lead Contamination

#### \*Important News\*

The NC Commission for Public Health has adopted and approved a new sanitation rule ([15A NCAC 18A .2816](#)) effective October 1, 2019. This amended rule requires that all licensed child care centers test all drinking water faucets and food preparation sinks for lead contamination within one year, and new centers must test upon application for a license. After that, child care centers are required to test their water once every three years.

In order to monitor compliance with the new requirement, child care operators will need to provide documentation of testing during periodic sanitation inspections for review by the local health department. The grade sheet will be modified to capture this information; however, no changes to the current inspection process will occur prior to October 1, 2020, except for new centers, which are required to test prior to licensure.

If a child care center finds elevated concentrations of lead in the center's water, they will be required to take immediate action. Lead is highly toxic to young children's developing brains. Depending on the level of lead, the action might include:

- No-cost methods, such as discontinuing use of the tap if sufficient other drinking water faucets are available;
- Low-cost methods, such as replacing an old faucet with a new one; or
- Installing and maintaining a certified water filter on the tap.

DCDEE and the NC Division of Public Health (DPH) are both here to help make sure that the drinking water in child care centers is as safe and clean as possible. You will receive a notice and instructions as soon as the new testing system is ready from the NC Division of Public Health. Instructional videos will also be available to guide you through the process.

The Environmental Health Section of DPH anticipates receiving a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency to pay for the entire first round of testing. In order to take advantage of this funding, child care operators will need to wait until the grant has been awarded, and a contract has been executed with a commercial laboratory to coordinate sample collection, analysis, and reporting.

Finally, once you begin water testing, your periodic sanitation inspections will include reviewing test results and any actions you have taken.

Thank you for all you do for NC's children and families!

### Important Contacts



NC DCDEE	1-800-859-0829
Carolinias Poison Center	1-800-222-1222
Cabarrus County DHS	704-920-1400
Debra Pless, RN, CCHC	704-960-3109
Melissa Jones, RN, CCHC	704-787-0682
NC Immunization Branch	919-707-5550
Criminal Background Check Unit Line	919-527-6620



## Interested in Receiving Your Breastfeeding Designation?

Cabarrus Wellness Coalition is supporting a county-wide push to support Breastfeeding in OB and Pediatric Offices, Atrium Cabarrus and Child Care Centers and Homes. If you are interested please visit the link below:

<https://www.nutritionnc.com/breastfeeding/bf-childcare.htm>



If you have questions or would like guidance with the process please feel free to reach out:

Lauren Westin, Program Manager  
Cabarrus Partnership for Children  
704-933-8278, option 6 or [lauren@cabarruspartnership.org](mailto:lauren@cabarruspartnership.org)

### UPCOMING TRAININGS

**PLEASE CHECK BACK ON THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR  
2020 CLASS OFFERINGS.**

**\*\*DEBRA AND MELISSA ARE NOW CERTIFIED  
CPR/FIRST AID INSTRUCTORS.\*\***

**IF YOU HAVE EMPLOYEES NEEDING RENEWALS OR NEW CERTIFI-  
CATIONS PLEASE CONTACT THEM AT THE NUMBERS BELOW.  
COST IS \$50/PERSON.**



## FREE Books for Children Birth to 5

Find out more about Dolly Parton's  
Imagination Library and  
register online at [www.cabarruspartnership.org](http://www.cabarruspartnership.org)

