

water service lines. Exposure to elevated lead levels can result in adverse health effects, especially in fetuses, infants and children up to the age of six.

Q. How does lead get into a school or child care center's drinking water?

A. Typically, the lead in plumbing pipes, solder and other plumbing materials, such as water coolers and faucets, is the source of lead in drinking water. The most common cause is corrosion. Corrosion is a chemical reaction between the water and the lead pipes and solder. Corrosion is accelerated by water characteristics such as low pH (acidity), low mineral content, high temperature, and extended contact time with plumbing pipes. For example, corrosion accelerates when water in the plumbing system stands overnight, over the weekend, and throughout term breaks when there are no classes.

Q. If testing and monitoring the quality of drinking water is not specifically mandated by state or local law, why should a school or child care center devote resources to such a course of action?

A. School and child care administrators have a professional responsibility to ensure the health