

TAKING THE LEAD ON LEAD

Continuing Our Commitment
to a Lead-Free NYC



NYC

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Letter from Mayor Adams

To my fellow New Yorkers:

Keeping New Yorkers and their families safe is the most important work we do as a city, and that work includes protecting our children from the dangers of lead exposure and lead poisoning.

Lead exposure in childhood can lead to serious, long-term consequences, including learning difficulties and behavioral problems. Over the years, New York City has continued to put new laws, regulations, and practices in place to prevent and address childhood lead poisoning.

Thanks to these efforts and the intensive work of our city agencies, lead exposure in children has been reduced by 93% since 2005, but this is a fight that is far from over.

This new LeadFreeNYC report, *Taking the Lead on Lead*, details our ongoing efforts to detect and prevent lead exposure in our city. While lead-based paint remains the most significant lead hazard, children are also exposed to lead in contaminated consumer products, foods, and spices, many of them imported from other places with fewer regulations. We must double down on everything we are doing to educate New Yorkers on these dangers, even as we continue our mission to remediate any remaining sources of lead in older buildings.

As the 110th Mayor of New York City, I am proud of the efforts our city has made to ensure a healthier future of all New Yorkers. We have made great strides in public health and safety, and we will continue to work hard toward our goal of a lead-free New York City.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this effort over the years, and those who are working to address it now. New York City is safer, stronger, and healthier thanks to your dedication and hard work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Adams" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor Eric Adams

Executive Summary

In January 2019, New York City took the latest step in our leadership towards eliminating childhood lead exposure. Since 1960, the City has had stringent rules and local laws that prohibit the use and sale of leaded products and require the investigation of and enforcement against exposure.

From banning the sale and use of lead-based paint in 1960 to the country's most stringent lead enforcement law, Local Law 1 of 2004, New York City is a leader in limiting exposure to lead-based paint hazards. In 2019, New York City released the [LeadFreeNYC plan](#), outlining clear steps to further reduce lead-related health risks in the City. New York City committed to:

- Reduce the amount of lead in paint and dust that triggers remediation and abatement to the lowest level of any major U.S. city.
- Expand inspection requirements and other obligations to apartments in one- and two-family homes.
- Expand referrals to the Department of Buildings (DOB) when the Health Department finds lead exposure risks during construction for potential enforcement action.
- Provide a dedicated nurse to any child with an elevated blood lead level to coordinate care.
- Launch ad campaigns promoting testing for children in communities with low blood lead testing rates to raise awareness about free water testing kits provided by the City and promote awareness of harmful consumer products like traditional spices, medications and cultural powders containing lead.
- Test all New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) apartments where lead has not been ruled out and remove all lead-based paint hazards.
- Proactively test for and remove lead-based paint hazards from all Department of Homeless Services (DHS) family shelter units.
- Establish a new Lead-Free Designation for homes where thorough testing of the paint indicates that there is no paint with lead content exceeding the legal definition for lead-based paint.
- Publish a Lead Products Index of consumer goods like spices and ceramics that contain lead and develop a "Safe Products Awareness training" for businesses.
- Publish a map of all privately-owned lead service lines that carry water into private homes and expedite their replacement for low-income homeowners.
- Reduce lead exposure risks from soil by providing clean topsoil to community gardens and surveying all NYCHA playgrounds, covering exposed soil when needed.
- Inspect apartments, and require property owners to inspect apartments, where a child under six routinely spends 10 or more hours a week for lead-based paint hazards and take appropriate remediation and abatement steps to address the hazard.

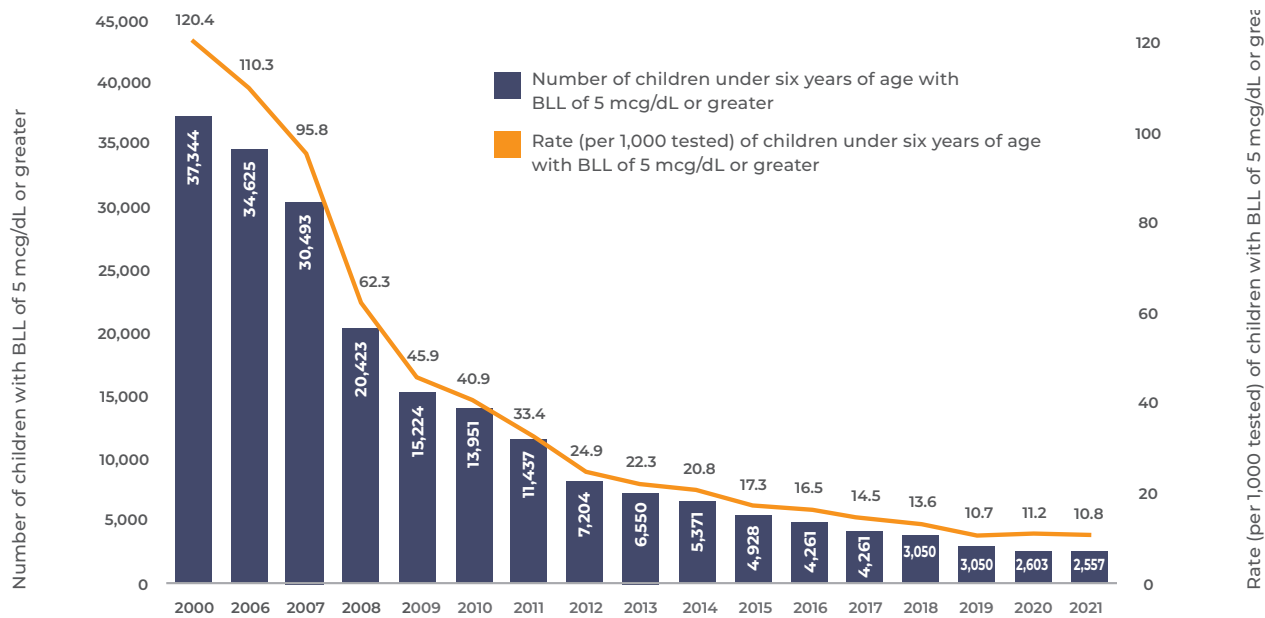
Taking the Lead on Lead is the City's latest stake in the ground to ensure that we never go backwards on ensuring the health of our most vulnerable neighbors. Four years, new local laws, and a public health pandemic later, New Yorkers can be reassured the City has assessed its lead compliance procedures and strengthened our programs to further our progress toward achieving a lead-free New York City.

Introduction

Creating a lead-free city will not happen without continued vigilance and coordinated efforts from public health officials, City employees, building owners, contractors, families, and advocates. LeadFreeNYC gave us the roadmap to eliminating lead exposure. Mayor Adams is now taking the lead on lead to double down on our efforts to eliminate harmful lead exposures, especially for children.

Lead exposure in childhood can lead to serious, long-term consequences, including learning difficulties and behavioral problems. While New York City has reduced childhood lead exposure by 93 percent since 2005, no safe blood lead level (BLL) has been identified, and there is no treatment to reverse any harm caused by an elevated blood lead level (EBLL).

Figure 1. The number and rate (per 1,000 tested) of New York City children under 6 years of age with a blood lead level (BLL) of 5 mcg/dL or greater



NOTE: The COVID-19 public health emergency has led to significant changes in health care utilization - including a drop in blood lead testing among children. For this, 2020 & 2021 surveillance data should be interpreted with caution.
The data above represent unique children per year. Included are all children tested in a calendar year with an elevated blood lead level, regardless of whether the test was confirmed or not, and regardless of whether they had an elevated test in previous years. Adding across years will result in duplicate counts of individual children over time. Between January 2005 and December 2022 there were 169,557 children under the age of 6 who had a blood lead level of 5mcg/dL or greater.

Lead-based paint hazards remain the most identified exposure source for New York City children with elevated blood lead levels. Children are also exposed to lead in contaminated consumer products, foods, and spices, often informally imported.

New York City is a national leader in combatting lead exposure. This report provides updates from every City agency with lead-related compliance requirements to proactively monitor and mitigate lead exposure. Working together, the Adams administration has identified areas where we can tap into another agency's expertise or program design, improve communication, and establish better interagency coordination, which will ensure ongoing improvements to efforts to eliminate lead exposure citywide. Under the direction of a new citywide Lead Compliance Officer, a working group is coordinating to expand communication across city government and continue New York City's leadership in protecting children.

THE WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF:

- Department of Buildings (DOB)
- Department of Education (DOE)
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- The Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)
- NYC Health and Hospitals (H+H)
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)
- NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA)
- Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)
- NYC Law Department
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Social Services (DSS)



Screening and Protecting Our Children

SCREENING AND PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The City has long been in the vanguard protecting children from the harms of lead exposure, and we have a robust set of laws, regulations, and practices to prevent and address childhood lead poisoning.

IDENTIFYING CHILDREN WITH ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS

New York State requires health care providers to test children for lead at ages one and two, assess for risk up to age six and test when appropriate. Providers may also test older children who are at high risk, for example, because they are new arrivals to the US or have behavioral conditions that may result from ongoing lead exposure.

Results of all blood lead level (BLL) tests are reported to the Health Department, who reviews them daily. For all children with a confirmed BLL of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL) and above, the Health Department conducts an environmental investigation and provides a care coordination nurse. The investigation includes an extensive risk assessment interview that seeks to identify all possible sources of exposure, an inspection of the child's home, and, depending on the outcome of the interview, testing of potentially contaminated products. Pregnant people with a BLL of 3.5 mcg/dL and above also receive care coordination services from a Health Department nurse.

- **Inspection:** The inspector carefully examines the unit for peeling, chipped or cracked paint (intact paint is not a risk unless it is on a door, door frame, window or windowsill, which are “chewable impact or friction surfaces”) and tests the location using a handheld X-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine to measure lead content. If there are lead-based paint hazards, the owner is ordered to correct the condition and follow up to be sure the work gets done safely. If other possible sources are revealed during the interview, the inspector takes sample(s) for laboratory testing and provides risk reduction guidance to the family.
- **Nurse Care Coordination:** Every child with an EBLL has a nurse to coordinate care to provide ongoing risk reduction guidance, consult with the health care provider, and monitor follow-up blood lead testing.
- **Monitoring Progress:** Once the source of lead exposure is eliminated, the child will naturally eliminate the lead over time. Depending on the child's length of exposure, nutrition profile and other individual factors, the child's BLL can drop within a few months, or it can take years. The Health Department follows the child until the BLL drops below 3.5mcg/dL and continues to work with the family if the BLL is not trending down over time as expected.

Promises Made and Kept in LeadFreeNYC

PROMISES MADE AND KEPT IN LEADFREE NYC

LeadFreeNYC’s roadmap to eliminate exposure to lead in New York City included a list of 46 commitments. These commitments are far-reaching in their impact and build confidence in our ability to fully tackle childhood lead exposure. The commitments in LeadFreeNYC also gave reassurance to parents, including offering free blood lead testing for children under six who do not have health care providers.

Through extensive coordination from all relevant agencies, we were able to substantially complete 42 of these promises already, with many of them ongoing today. Of the five remaining, including improving the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) to expand the CIR’s existing reminder tools for notifying parents and developing an interface to display lead data and recommendations for providers, all are in progress.

LeadFreeNYC got us started, but we must continue our efforts to finally reach our goal of eliminating childhood lead exposure.

Figure 2. Summary of LeadFreeNYC Program

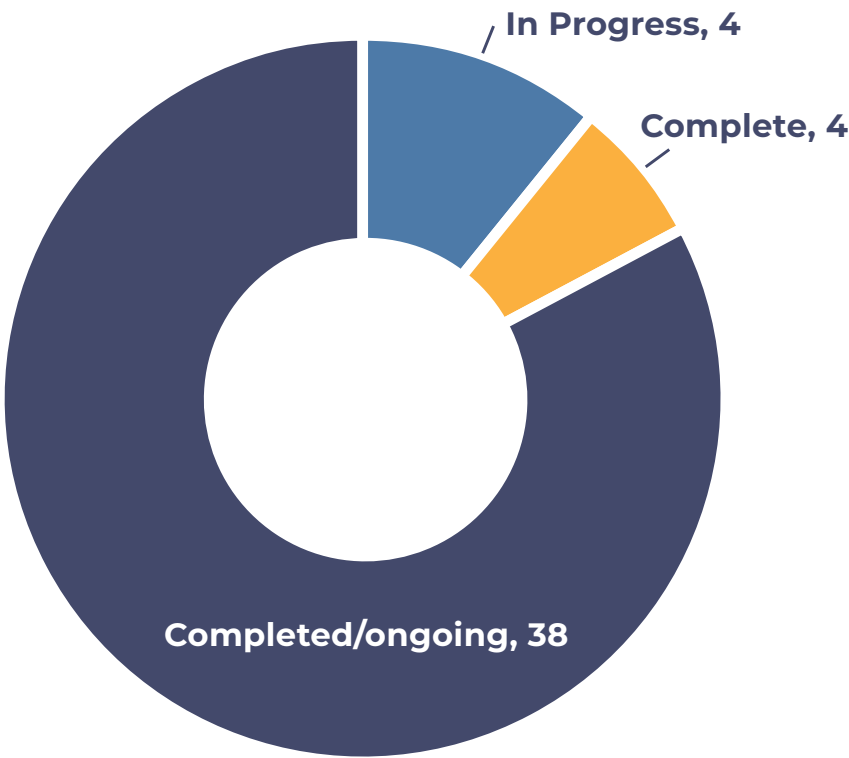


Figure 3. Status of LeadFreeNYC Initiatives

Initiative	Status	
Expand staffing for follow-up care and environmental investigations to serve 6x as many children	✓	Completed/ongoing
Expand coordinated nursing care to every kid with EBLs	✓	Completed/ongoing
Improve the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR)	...	In Progress
Expand outreach to parents	✓	Completed/ongoing
Reach more communities through targeted campaigns	✓	Completed/ongoing
Enhance coordination and resources for families during peeling paint complaints	✓	Completed/ongoing
Offer free blood lead testing for children under six who do not have health care providers	✓	Completed/ongoing
Continue to enforce the blood lead testing requirement for child care admission	✓	Completed/ongoing
Strengthen testing protocols at NYC Health + Hospitals	✓	Completed/ongoing
Lower the definitions of lead-based paint and lead dust	✓	Completed/ongoing
Expand Local Law 1 to include one- and two-family homes with children under six	✓	Completed/ongoing
Create a “Building Lead Index” to better target proactive inspections	✓	Completed/ongoing
Proactively audit lead-related records kept by landlords	✓	Completed/ongoing
Require proof of EPA-certification for home improvement contractors, etc.	✓	Completed/ongoing
Update construction code to require proof of EPA-certification for firms performing renovation, repair, and painting	✓	Completed/ongoing
Monthly interagency inspections by DOB and the Health Department in high-risk areas	✓	Completed/ongoing
Health Department stop work order will now trigger DOB scrutiny	✓	Completed/ongoing
Expand public outreach encouraging New Yorkers to report unsafe work practices or lead-based paint hazards	✓	Completed
Test 135,000 NYCHA units for lead hazards	...	In Progress
Make NYCHA lead testing results and progress on this effort available to the public	✓	Completed/ongoing
Ensure NYCHA staff are trained on lead safe work practices	✓	Completed/ongoing
Invest an initial \$7 million to test for and eliminate lead hazards from all family shelter units	...	In Progress

Robust lead processes for rental assistance programs	✓	Completed/ongoing
Lead hazard inspections in Section 8 housing	✓	Completed/ongoing
Expand financial assistance for landlords who abate hazards while preserving affordability	✓	Completed/ongoing
Expand landlord outreach and language services	✓	Completed/ongoing
Provide landlords with the ability to file for lead free and lead safe exemptions online.	...	In Progress
Restructure the exemption process to create a Lead-based paint Free certification	✓	Completed
Create a “Lead Products Index” for unsafe products	✓	Completed/ongoing
Require mandatory “Safe Products Awareness training” for businesses that sell unsafe products	✓	Completed/ongoing
Require high penalties for businesses that willfully sell harmful products	✓	Completed/ongoing
Invest \$750,000 annually to add Health Department inspection and testing resources	✓	Completed/ongoing
Target education and outreach about unsafe products to high-risk communities	✓	Completed/ongoing
Take action when lead levels in water exceed EPA guidelines	✓	Completed/ongoing
Expand efforts to replace lead service lines	✓	Completed/ongoing
Publish a map of all lead service lines	✓	Completed/ongoing
Continue efforts to survey and replace any City-owned water infrastructure containing lead	✓	Completed/ongoing
Promote free water testing kits	✓	Completed/ongoing
Actively participate in ongoing water research	✓	Completed/ongoing
Educate the public on safe soil practices	✓	Completed/ongoing
Provide clean soil to communities impacted by high levels of lead in soil	✓	Completed/ongoing
Survey NYCHA playgrounds to identify and address bare soil risks	✓	Completed/ongoing
Ensure public-facing communications use simple infographics and plain language	✓	Completed/ongoing
Launch the LeadFreeNYC website to show maps, data, and progress on lead prevention initiatives	✓	Completed/ongoing
Appoint a Citywide Lead Compliance Officer	✓	Completed
Partner with external advisors	✓	Completed/ongoing

Continuing the Fight Against Lead Exposure

CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST LEAD EXPOSURE

Keeping New Yorkers safe is our number one priority, and this includes eliminating environmental health risks. It is critical that we continue our efforts to abate all lead, educate families on sources of potential lead, and maintain consistent oversight of our infrastructure, housing and environment.

The City has taken additional steps to shore up community safety by requiring contractors to certify that the individuals performing work that may involve the disturbance of potential lead-based paint have the appropriate certifications in order to receive a construction permit from the **Department of Buildings (DOB)**. This information must now also be disclosed on the Tenant Protection Plan associated with the permitted construction work, which is made available to tenants in the building. This heightened attention toward lead-safe construction practices will reduce the release of lead dust into the air, thereby minimizing inadvertent exposure to lead hazards during construction activity.

Additionally, DOB is performing interagency inspections with the NYC Health Department and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspectors to ensure work is being done safely. DOB is also responding to referrals from the Health Department where they have issued a stop work order for unsafe work practices at sites for which DOB has issued a construction permit. Upon inspection, DOB will take appropriate enforcement action under the New York City Construction Codes, which may include issuing a stop work order or a violation for working contrary to the Tenant Protection Plan associated with the permitted construction work.

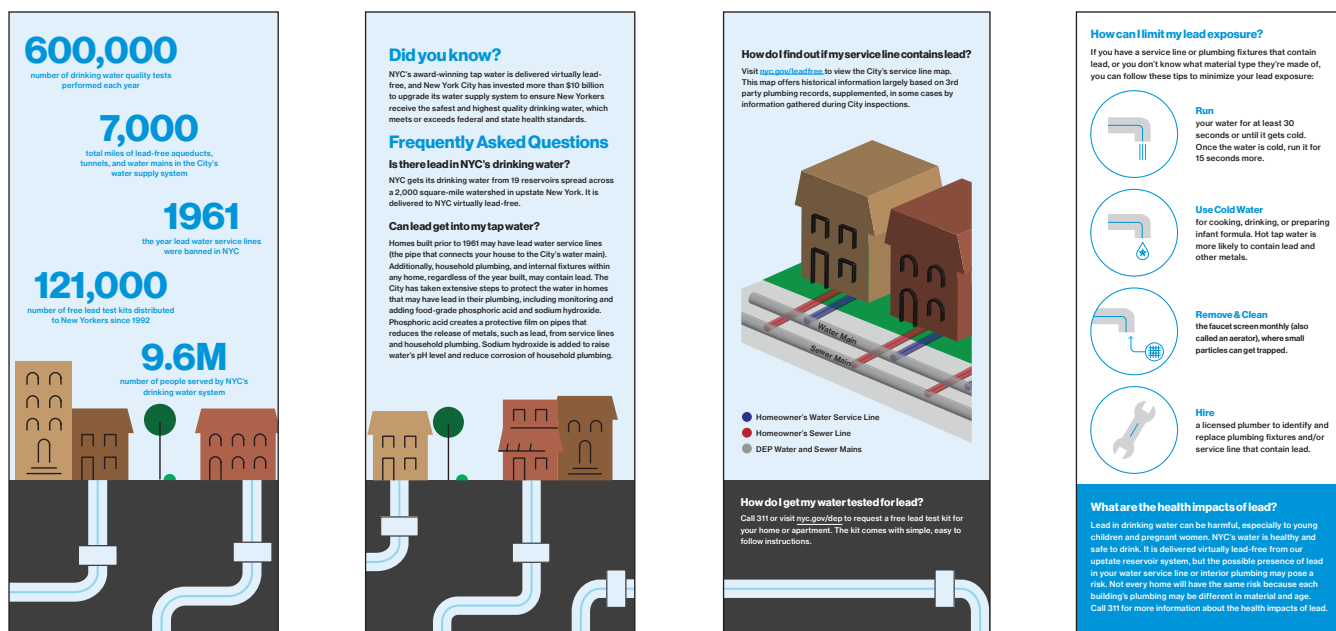
The **Department of Education (DOE)** has the incredible responsibility of caring for and educating our youth. In alignment with the Chancellor's Pillar of prioritizing student wellness and its link to student success, DOE is focused on all aspects of student wellness, including monitoring the water in our schools and inspecting for and remediating lead-based paint hazards.

As part of LeadFreeNYC, DOE surveyed all infrastructure in city-owned schools that contained lead-based paint. DOE continues to monitor all school buildings, maintain certifications for staff who engage in paint-related work, and address potential hazards with regular inspections. DOE has undertaken extensive work to reduce the presence of lead-based paint in all spaces in school buildings where students under six are regularly present. This includes classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, cafeterias, bathrooms, and more.

DOE also follows New York State law for water testing in schools, including testing every cohort fixture in every facility on a three-year cycle to 5 parts per billion (ppb).

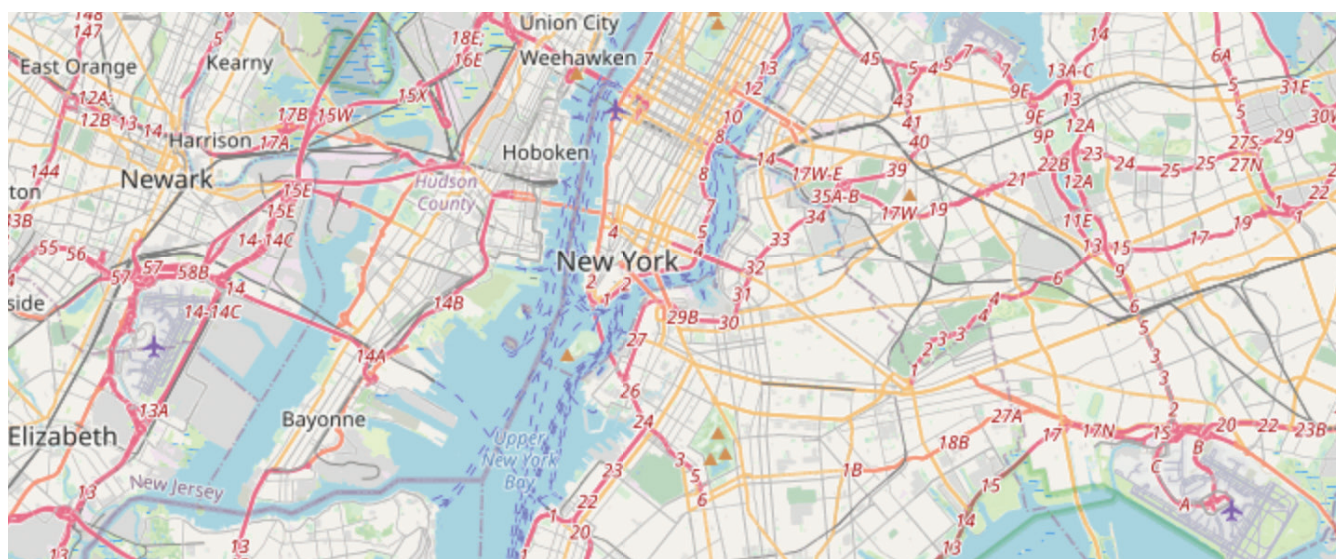
Our citywide water system continues to be the national standard for safe drinking water. This is due to the incredible efforts that the **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** undertakes every day to carefully treat, operate, test, and monitor our system.

While the installation of a lead service line, the pipe that connects homes to the City's water mains, was banned in New York City in 1961, many homes still have lead service lines and they remain a potential source of lead exposure as a result.



Under LeadFreeNYC, DEP expanded its existing outreach to one- and two-family homes where lead service lines remain. The [NYC Lead Service Line Map](#) is posted online and regularly updated to provide New Yorkers with accurate information available for their support.

Figure 4. DEP NYC Lead Service Line Map



Additionally, DEP offers free lead test kits for all New Yorkers to test their drinking water, and if, after flushing, lead levels still exceed the guidelines set out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DEP will provide a free pitcher filter. The City provided nearly 10,000 free test kits to New Yorkers in 2022.

The Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) manages the New York City Voluntary Cleanup Program, a citywide land cleanup program that protects public health, spurs economic development and promotes growth and vitality in communities across the city. In the course of excavations, clean, glacial sediment is often removed from construction sites, stored in the City’s stockpile, and made available to public, private, and community projects.

As part of LeadFreeNYC, OER committed to providing clean soil to communities with high levels of lead in their soil. OER has since expanded its capacity, and any party may now request delivery or pickup of sediment and topsoil for a community or school garden through OER’s [website](#).

Since the beginning of the LeadFreeNYC initiative, OER has provided clean soil to 70 community and school gardens to make the gardens safe and fertile and reduce lead exposure.

All New Yorkers, regardless of income and immigration status, deserve the reassurance of knowing their children are healthy and safe. With that in mind, **New York City Health and Hospitals (H+H)** offers free blood lead testing for children under six who do not have health care providers. People looking for lead testing for their children can reach out to 311 to be connected with an H+H health care provider.

Since the release of LeadFreeNYC, H+H has tested 95,000 children under the age of six for a potential EBLL.

Figure 5. H+H Annual Testing of Children Under 6 since LeadFreeNYC

Year	Children Under 6 Tested
2020	25,689
2021	29,732
2022	30,320
2023	9,351
Grand Total	95,092

Beyond testing for children under six, H+H has also improved its testing protocols to ensure it is providing the best service available for children.

The **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** (the Health Department) is the backbone of the City’s efforts to ensure that children are safe and healthy by reducing the risk of lead exposure. Since the release of LeadFreeNYC, the Health Department has gone beyond the initial commitments in the report to build a more vigilant blood lead testing and monitoring network. In March 2022, the Health Department further reduced the blood lead level for intervention from 5 mcg/dL to the Centers for Disease Control Prevention’s (CDC) current reference level, defined as a confirmed BLL of 3.5 mcg/dL or higher. In October 2022, the Board of Health updated the Health Code to codify this intervention level.

The Health Department has expanded its staffing for follow-up care and environmental investigations to serve more children as a result of the blood lead threshold lowering to 3.5 mcg/dL. Prior to lowering the blood level threshold, approximately 450 children with EBLLs received care coordination from the Health Department. Since expanding the threshold, an average of 3,600 children are receiving Health Department care coordination at any given time, more than seven times as many as before.

Since LeadFreeNYC, the New York City Council has passed numerous laws that expanded the Health Department's scope. The Health Department has increased transparency in its annual reporting, provided additional public materials for property owners and tenants, and expanded locations where the Health Department conducts inspections for lead-based paint. The Health Department is required to inspect not just the dwelling unit where a child with an EBLL resides, but also any daycare, preschool or nursery school, kindergarten and first-grade classroom in DOE facilities and private school classrooms where the child routinely spends 10 or more hours per week. The Health Department has implemented every requirement, including:

- Offering inspections of apartments with a child under one in the same building as the dwelling unit where a lead-poisoned child resides.
- Requiring owners to submit lead testing documentation as a requirement for compliance with a Commissioner's Order to Abate (COTA) lead-based paint hazards.
- Notifying tenants in buildings with Health Department-identified lead hazards.
- Providing families of children with EBLLs information regarding special education services available from the DOE.

To engage partners, caregivers, and providers, the Health Department has implemented a series of new outreach steps and education campaigns, including:

- Sending text messages and letters to families of children who are overdue for a blood lead test.
- Distributing an educational pamphlet that includes information on how to obtain a blood lead screening, [Protect Children From Lead Hazards \(nyc.gov\)](https://nyc.gov/protectchildren).
- Adding the "Protect Children from Lead Hazards" fact sheet together with birth certificate mailings.
- Launching a blood lead testing campaign in multiple languages aimed at raising awareness among parents, caregivers and health providers on testing children.
- Launching a campaign focused on raising awareness of potential lead exposure risks among the South Asian community and providing recommendations on how to reduce exposure.

In addition to efforts to spread awareness of childhood lead poisoning, the Health Department has engaged in proactive outreach about unsafe products to high-risk communities, resulting in more than 100,000 social media and website views to nyc.gov/hazardousproducts. The Health Department also created a "[lead products index](#)" on NYC Open Data and distributed over 12,000 educational materials focused on hazardous consumer products. The Health Department routinely conducts proactive retail surveys to determine availability of hazardous consumer products and takes enforcement actions if found available.

In collaboration with the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) and the City University of New York (CUNY), the Health Department has developed a lead poisoning prevention focused English as a Second Language (ESOL) curriculum “[Lead and Leadership: Public Health Lesson Sets for Mid-and Upper-Level ELLs](#),” and continues to promote this curriculum among community-based organizations and other entities offering ESOL to the immigrant community.

Key to successful implementation of our strengthened oversight of lead-related health risks is better integration with city partners, including 311 and the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH). This includes a new blood lead registry and case management system that will replace the Health Department’s existing, decades-old system to make operations more efficient and easily scalable.

Shortly after the release of LeadFreeNYC, on January 31, 2019, the City of New York, the **New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)**, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York (SDNY), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) signed a joint agreement to address lead-based paint and other environmental hazards throughout NYCHA’s portfolio.

Since then, NYCHA has overhauled its internal programs and is now running one of the most effective and aggressive public housing lead programs in the country. This starts with knowing where lead-based paint is present in the public housing stock, including through ongoing efforts to test apartments for the presence of lead-based paint and retesting since the threshold was lowered from one milligram per square centimeter (mg/cm²) to 0.5 mg/cm². NYCHA is prioritizing apartments where children under six live or routinely visit for 10 or more hours per week. Using \$77 million in city capital and operating funds, federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and other sources, NYCHA is retesting 77,000 apartments at the 0.5 mg/cm² standard before June 30, 2024. With this data, NYCHA can better target its lead-based paint-related efforts and begin the long-awaited process of fully abating its apartments, which has now begun in earnest.

If an apartment tests negative, NYCHA will apply for HPD’s Lead Free Exemption, defined below. If the apartment is positive, the apartment will be enrolled in the Authority’s Team for Enhanced Management Planning and Outreach (TEMPO) abatement program, discussed below.

Figure 6. NYCHA XRF texting since LeadFreeNYC*

	Positive Results	Negative Results	Total Locations with Results
1.0 Initiative	25,366	76,877	102,243
0.5 Initiative	10,157	18,745	28,902
Vacant Apartments Tested at 0.5 since December 2021	1,524	4,101	5,625
Total	37,047	99,723	136,770

** Due to the change in testing standards from 1.0 mg/cm² to 0.5 mg/cm², 20,618 apartments have been tested twice at both levels. Thus, a total of 116,152 unique apartments have received an XRF inspection. This year, NYCHA is attempting to perform XRF inspections at 0.5 mg/cm² in the remaining apartments that it has not yet been able to access.*

Beyond the testing of all apartments, on July 1, 2022, NYCHA launched the TEMPO abatement program to address any lead-based paint issues in occupied apartments at the 0.5 mg/cm² standard. NYCHA is prioritizing apartments with children under six and working with tenants on a voluntary basis. Because of the intrusive level of work required to fully abate an apartment, NYCHA offers temporary relocation to residents who opt into the TEMPO program to nearby hotels, with meal and transportation costs, while their home is abated and repairs are completed.

The TEMPO program is supported by \$1.4 billion in city capital funds above NYCHA's standard federal operating and capital dollars. As of April 2023, NYCHA has abated 828 apartments through the TEMPO program.

Figure 7. NYCHA TEMPO Abatement Program Progress (July 2022 to April 4, 2023)

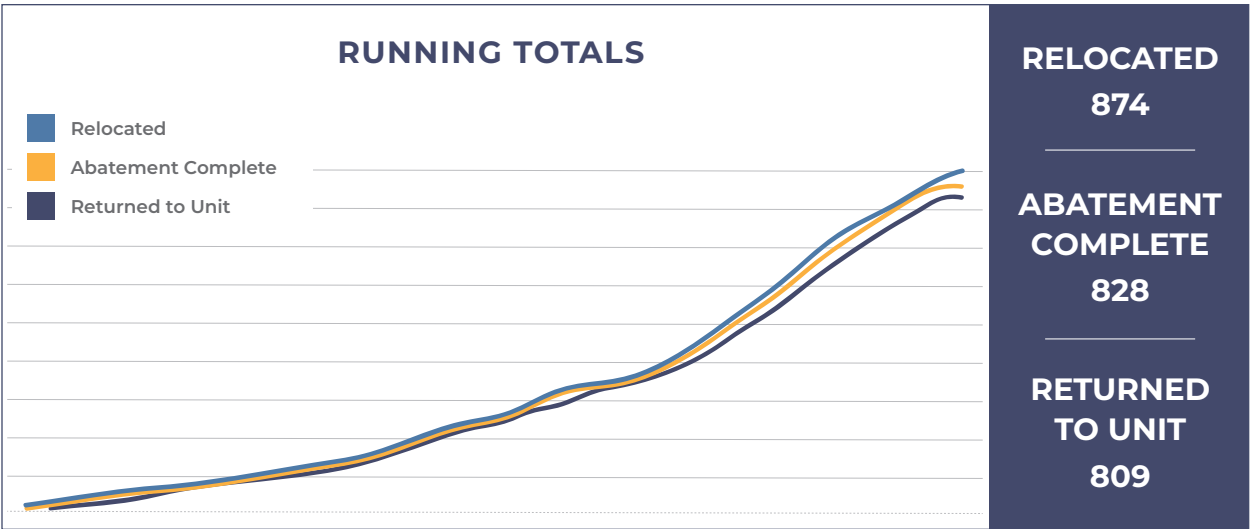
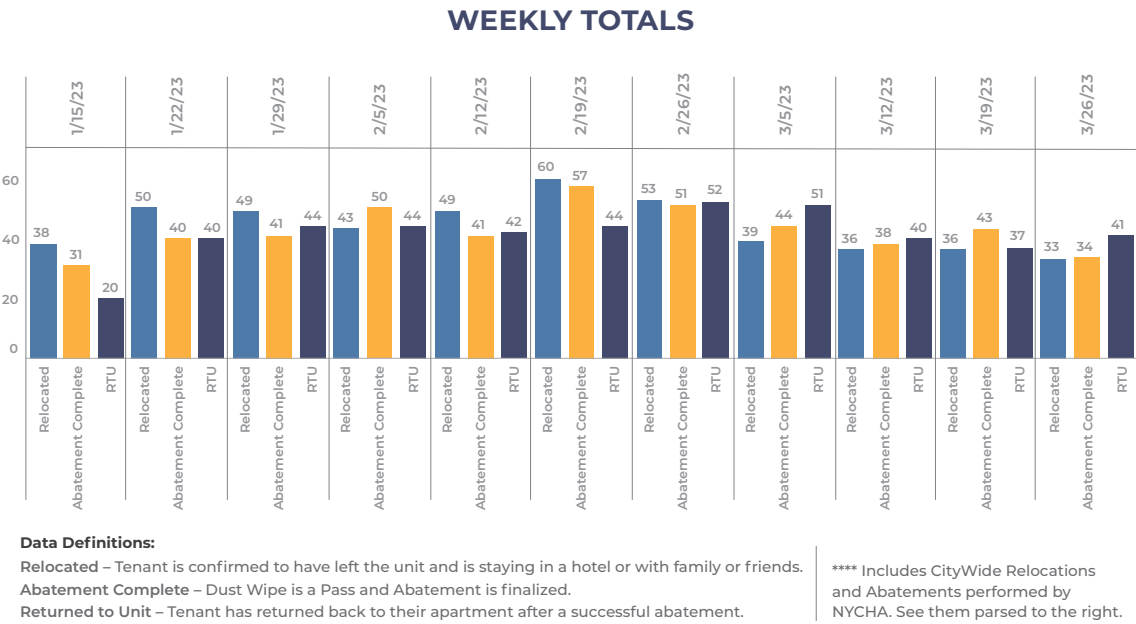


Figure 8. Snapshot of NYCHA TEMPO Abatement Weekly Progress in 2023 (Weeks of January 15 through March 26)



Beyond TEMPO, NYCHA continues to abate apartments on turnover. When a household moves out, NYCHA tests every apartment where the presence of lead is unknown or confirmed positive on a previous test and, if positive for lead, abates the unit before a new resident moves in. NYCHA is using city capital and operating dollars to expand its contracting resources to tackle this issue, as it is time consuming and costly.

**Figure 9. NYCHA Vacant Apartments Tested and Abated for Lead
(December 2021 through March 23, 2023)**

Vacant Apartments Tested Negative at 0.5	3,885
Vacant Apartments Tested Positive and Abated at 0.5	1,447
Total Vacant Apartments Completed	5,332

Over recent years, NYCHA has been able to provide comprehensive repairs to thousands of apartments through its Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT) program. As part of the PACT conversion, apartments must be abated to meet the federal standard.

Major abatement work has already begun at Williamsburg and Harlem River Houses, which are developments with a significant amount of lead-based paint, as well as other developments that have converted through the PACT Program since the abatement requirements of the 2019 federal agreement became effective. As of January 31, 2023, 1,040 apartments have been abated at these developments.

Additionally, the City is providing \$673 million in capital funding towards the \$740 million Comprehensive Modernization program at Saint Nicholas Houses and Todt Hill Houses, which are currently in the design-build procurement stage with a Notice to Proceed anticipated in Q2 2024 for design and construction services inclusive of lead abatement as part of the larger renovations.

Figure 10. NYCHA PACT Projects Subject to Lead Abatement Requirements of the 2019 HUD Agreement

PACT Project ¹	Closing Date	Total Units	Assumed # Units that Need to Be Abated	Units Abated ⁴
Brooklyn Bundle A and B ²	Feb 12, 2020	2,625	Approx. 314 (Based on 1.0 random sampling and development wide testing)	49
Manhattan Bundle ²	Nov 30, 2020	1,718	Approx. 0 (Based on 1.0 random sampling)	0

Williamsburg ³	Dec 28, 2021	1,630	Approx. 1,630 (Based on 0.5 positivity rate to date)	578
Boulevard, Fiorentino Plaza, and Belmont- Sutter Area	Dec 28, 2021	1,673	Approx. 669 (Based on 0.5 positivity rate to date)	165
Linden and Penn Wortman	Dec 28, 2021	1,922	Approx. 442 (Based on 0.5 positivity rate to date)	30
Harlem River I and II ³	Feb 17, 2022	693	Approx. 693 (Based on 0.5 positivity rate to date)	226
TOTAL		10,261⁵	3,748	1,048

1 – Chart includes all PACT Projects subject to lead abatement requirements of the 2019 HUD Agreement.

2 – These properties closed before The City and NYCHA changed its standard to 0.5 mg/cm2.

3 – Early Abatement Sites as defined by the 2019 HUD Agreement.

4 – Data based on progress through April 12, 2023, accessed from PACT Partner reporting and not all units have been reviewed by NYCHA as of the date of this report.

5 – Each site has common areas that also need to be and have been abated to date, but this chart does not report on that progress.

Since 2019, the **Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)** has implemented at least 10 major changes to enhance both reactive and proactive enforcement of Local Law 1 of 2004. This includes meeting the new requirements passed under Local Laws 64, 66 and 70 of 2019 and Local Laws 28, 29 and 31 of 2020.

From expanding the application of Local Law 1 to one- and two-family homes and the definition of “resides” to include dwelling units where a child under six routinely spends ten or more hours a week, to issuing turnover violations and auditing buildings that fail to meet requirements, HPD has strengthened enforcement and oversight of private rental units to ensure New Yorkers have healthy homes.

All of HPD's work is now performed at the lower-level standard for lead in paint of 0.5 mg/cm2. HPD has enhanced education and outreach to owners, tenants, and community partners about ongoing and new lead-based paint rules and requirements using multiple channels, including a new series of webinars targeting both general and specific lead-based paint compliance topics and periodic email notifications about regulations.

Figure 11: HPD Webinars on Lead-Based Paint Compliance Topics



By August 2025 or sooner, if a child under six comes to live in a unit, property owners are obligated to test all units in pre-1960 buildings for lead-based paint. Building owners who have evidence that a unit has no lead-based paint (whether through testing or abatement), or who have taken appropriate steps to enclose or encapsulate existing lead-based paint, can apply to HPD for an exemption from some of the requirements of Local Law 1.

To properly track progress towards a lead-free New York City, HPD changed how exemptions are processed, now identifying the exemption as Lead Free or Lead Safe based on the testing and repair work performed, while adding additional monitoring requirements for exemptions that are Lead Safe. Owners can apply for a Lead Free Exemption if all test results are negative at the 0.5 mg/cm² action level. For any positive result, owners may apply for a Lead Free Exemption if abatement work is done to permanently remove the paint or replace the component. If the positive components are abated through enclosure or encapsulation, which means providing a solid barrier over the paint or component, owners may apply for a Lead Safe Exemption. HPD has also instituted a process to revoke lead-based paint exemptions granted at the previous 1.0 mg/cm² standard once a unit turns over to ensure that homes are maintained at the safest, highest standard.

HPD's enforcement of the correction of lead-based paint hazards and compliance with Local Law 1 requirements sends a clear message about the importance of addressing lead-based paint hazards. When landlords fail to remediate lead-based paint hazards, HPD's enforcement team continues to step in to attempt to address any hazards that remain in that

The **City Law Department** works with the **Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants** (MOPT) to support HPD's enforcement and litigation efforts against landlords who are failing to meet their lead-related obligations. The Tenant Protection Unit within the Law Department has 16 matters involving correction of lead-based paint violations, covering 156 buildings. Six of those matters involve pre-litigation agreements. The Unit is monitoring compliance in nine matters – eight pursuant to a stipulation and one pursuant to a preliminary injunction.

home. When landlords fail to remediate lead-based paint hazards, HPD will address the issues and charge the owner for the work with an additional fee.

Litigation is also a tool for enforcement. HPD directly engages in enforcement through litigation by the agency, as well as through coordinated actions with the City Law Department, the NYS Attorney General and other investigatory bodies. Through the end of June 2022, HPD obtained more than \$400,000 in settlements and obtained orders against almost 100 buildings regarding failure to comply with the recordkeeping requirements of Local Law 1. One settlement agreement with a major landlord resulted in \$82,500 in civil penalties and a consent order to correct over 80 lead-based paint violations across six Brooklyn buildings impacting 285 homes, as well as complying with all other lead-based paint requirements.

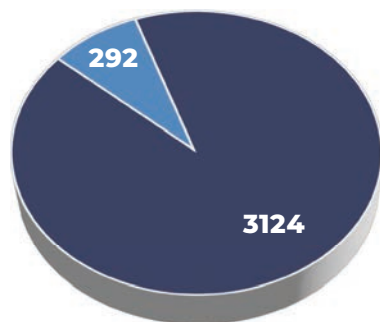
Parks are one of the City's greatest resources where all New Yorkers come together. In 2019, the **Department of Parks and Recreation** (NYC Parks) tested over 3,400 indoor and outdoor drinking fountains for evidence of lead in the water. Where test results exceeded local, State and Federal standards, fountains were repaired or replaced.

- Of about 3,800 total fountains, 3,416 were operational and able to be tested. The remaining fountains (~380) were either under construction or out of service.
- Approximately 8.5% (292) of fountains tested exceeded the guidance value of 15 ppb, the federal action standard for lead levels. Another 292 tested between 5 ppb and 15 ppb.
- Each fountain with either an elevated draw or flush sample was shut down and repaired to bring the fountain back into service.
- The repairs included installing new filters or replacing the control valve and bubbler and associated piping and fittings.



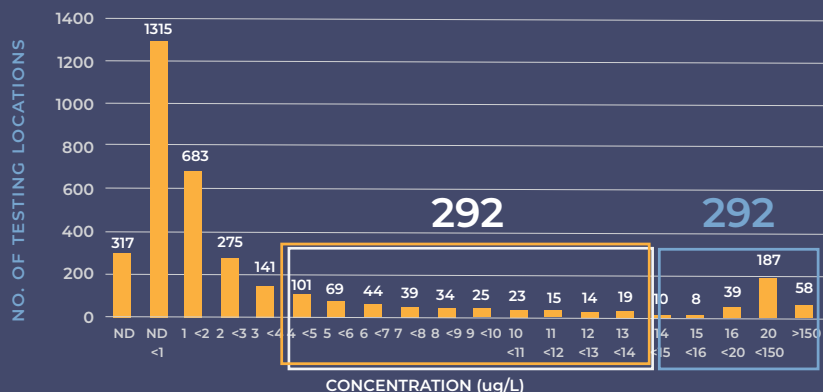
RESULTS OF PARKS 2019 DRINKING FOUNTAIN TESTS

CITYWIDE DRINKING WATER LEAD TESTING RESULTS



■ Acceptable Results ■ Elevated Results

CITYWIDE LEAD TESTING RESULTS BY CONCENTRATION



Results represent the number of locations (and the higher of the draw/flush sample for each location) at the concentration shown; ND - not detected

**TEMPORARILY
OUT OF ORDER**

For more information, visit
nyc.gov/parks/lead-testing



**THIS WATER
FOUNTAIN HAS
BEEN TESTED**

For more information, visit
nyc.gov/parks/lead-testing



**THIS WATER
FOUNTAIN
HAS PASSED
INSPECTION**

For more information, visit
nyc.gov/parks/lead-testing



The status of all testing is publicly available at nyc.gov/parks/lead-testing where New Yorkers can track our progress. At the time, NYC Parks posted public notices on water fountains under repair or upon completion providing clear status updates. NYC Parks will continue to test a cohort of fountains each year. As a result of this effort, New Yorkers can be confident that the drinking water in our parks is of the highest standard.

New York City is committed to ensuring that people in need of shelter are being provided a shelter unit that is safe. The **Department of Social Services (DSS)** has begun rolling out a new workplan to ensure every family in shelter can rest their head at night in a healthy environment.

As part of LeadFreeNYC, this work started with the inspection of all shelter units with children six and under. The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) completed testing in all City-owned units, with the abatement of identified units to commence this summer. While abatement is underway, no children six and under will be placed in those units until they are certified Lead Free. DSS will begin testing all Human Resources Administration (HRA) City-owned units this summer, with the abatement of any positive units to follow.

DSS is also working with all contracted shelter providers to test and abate shelters in their portfolios. DSS will assist contracted shelter providers with educational support and monitor their compliance with lead regulations.