

Child Care Centers NJ DCF Office of Licensing Safe Drinking Water Requirements

Testing must be performed for both Lead and Copper according to NJ Department of Children and Families (NJ DCF) regulations.

“All applicants, regardless of building use, must certify that the center provides safe drinking water before the DCF Office of Licensing will approve an application to operate a child care center.

- If a Child Care Center is connected to a community water system, the Child Care Center shall provide such documentation:
 - the name of the community water system; and
 - copy of a recent water bill indicating service address of the Child Care Center; or
 - a letter from the public community water system certifying the service to the address of the Child Care Center
 - In addition, child care facilities that receive their water from a community water system must sample the facility for lead and copper, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 3A:52-5.3(i)(5)(i). The results are to be submitted directly to DCF. Additional questions can be directed to your DCF Inspector or the DCF Office of Licensing, at 1-877-667-9845.
- If the Child Care Center is not connected to a community water system, the Child Care Center shall demonstrate the following:
 - potable water which meets the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established for non-transient noncommunity water systems.
 - Analytical results should be submitted to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water for determination of compliance with N.J.A.C. 3A:52-5.3(i)(5)(iii).

We strongly recommend you contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550, prior to sampling.”

Here is a link to the Child Care Center (CCC) Manual regulations:

<https://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/CCCmanual.pdf>

In particular, see page 46 of the CCC Manual.

You may also want to view:

Crosswalk for Lead Sampling in Schools and Child Care Centers:

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/ntnc-school-crosswalk.pdf>