Some schools and day care facilities in Illinois must have their water tested for lead under a bill passed and signed into law in January. The new requirements apply to buildings constructed before 2000 where pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade classes are held.

According to the Illinois attorney general’s office, the lead tests will average $15 per drinking-water sample. If samples exceed 5 parts per billion of lead, the families of students must be notified. SB 550 [2] authorizes community water suppliers to impose a “lead hazard cost recovery fee.” But minus such a fee, the tests will likely be paid by school districts, which can tap into existing funds set aside for safety or legal issues, the Chicago Tribune notes [3]. As part of the new law, too, community water supplies will provide Illinois officials with an inventory of their lead service lines.

Other Midwestern states have also passed new laws in the aftermath of the drinking water crisis in Flint, Mich. Ohio’s HB 512 [4] (enacted in 2016) requires water suppliers to test for lead and copper and to map areas being served by lead service lines. It also mandates training on how to identify lead in drinking water and control corrosion. And Michigan’s HB 5120 [5], signed into law in December, calls on water suppliers to alert the public within 72 hours after they learn that lead levels exceed prescribed “action levels.”

By:
Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 05:40 PM

Attachment

Tags: