

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Lead Testing in Maine Schools

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Summary of the Law

Public Law 2019, Chapter 158, An Act To Strengthen Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water, introduced as LD 153 and enacted with amendments:

- All K-12 Maine schools must sample all taps used for drinking or cooking
- Sampling costs cannot be transferred to schools
- An annual report must be submitted to the Legislature

Summary of the Rules

Legislative review and approval of major substantive rule, 10-144 CMR chapter 234, Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Rules (Resolve 2021, chapter 44, introduced as LD 206, enacted as amended):

- Water must stagnate for a minimum of 8 hours
- Four parts per billion (ppb) level of concern
- Public notice must be completed within 5 days

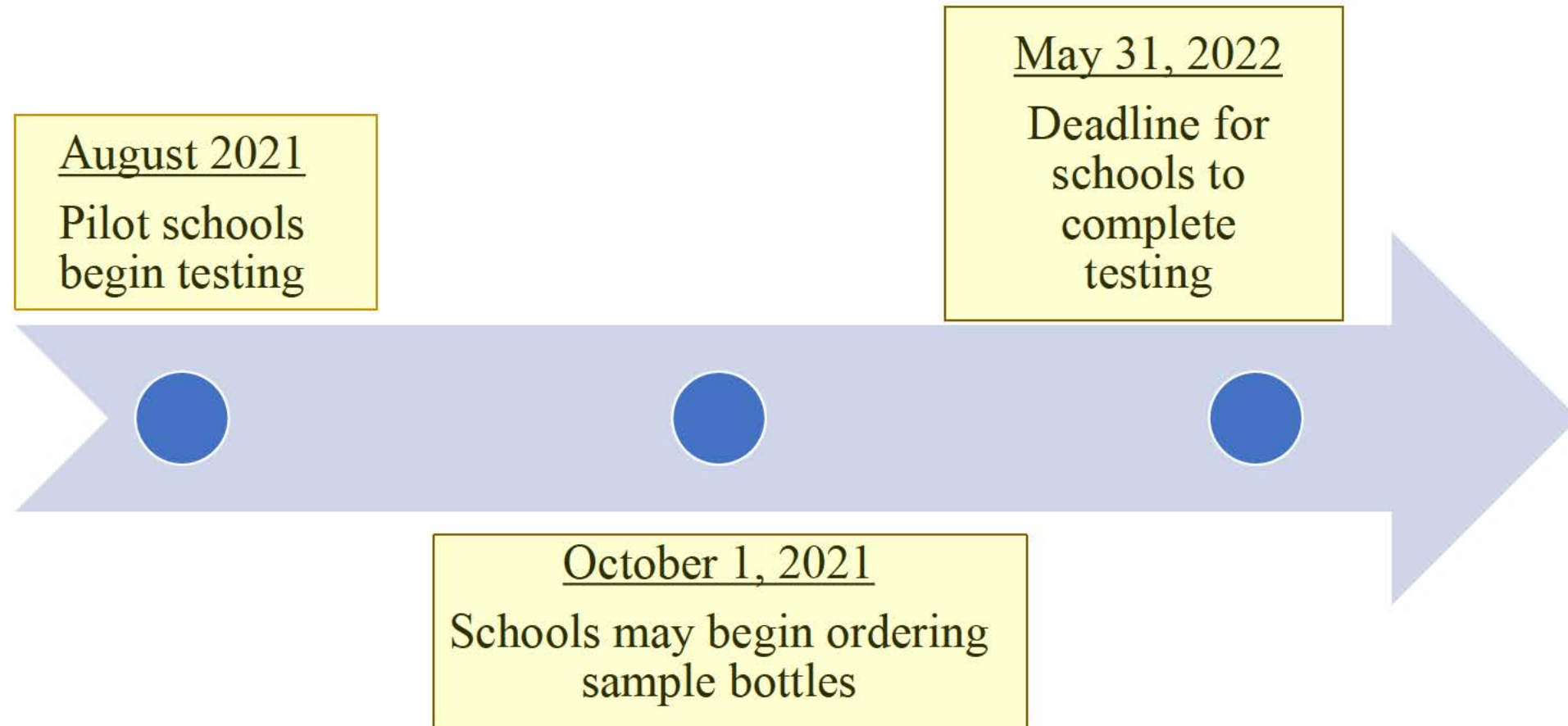
Federal Funding Sources



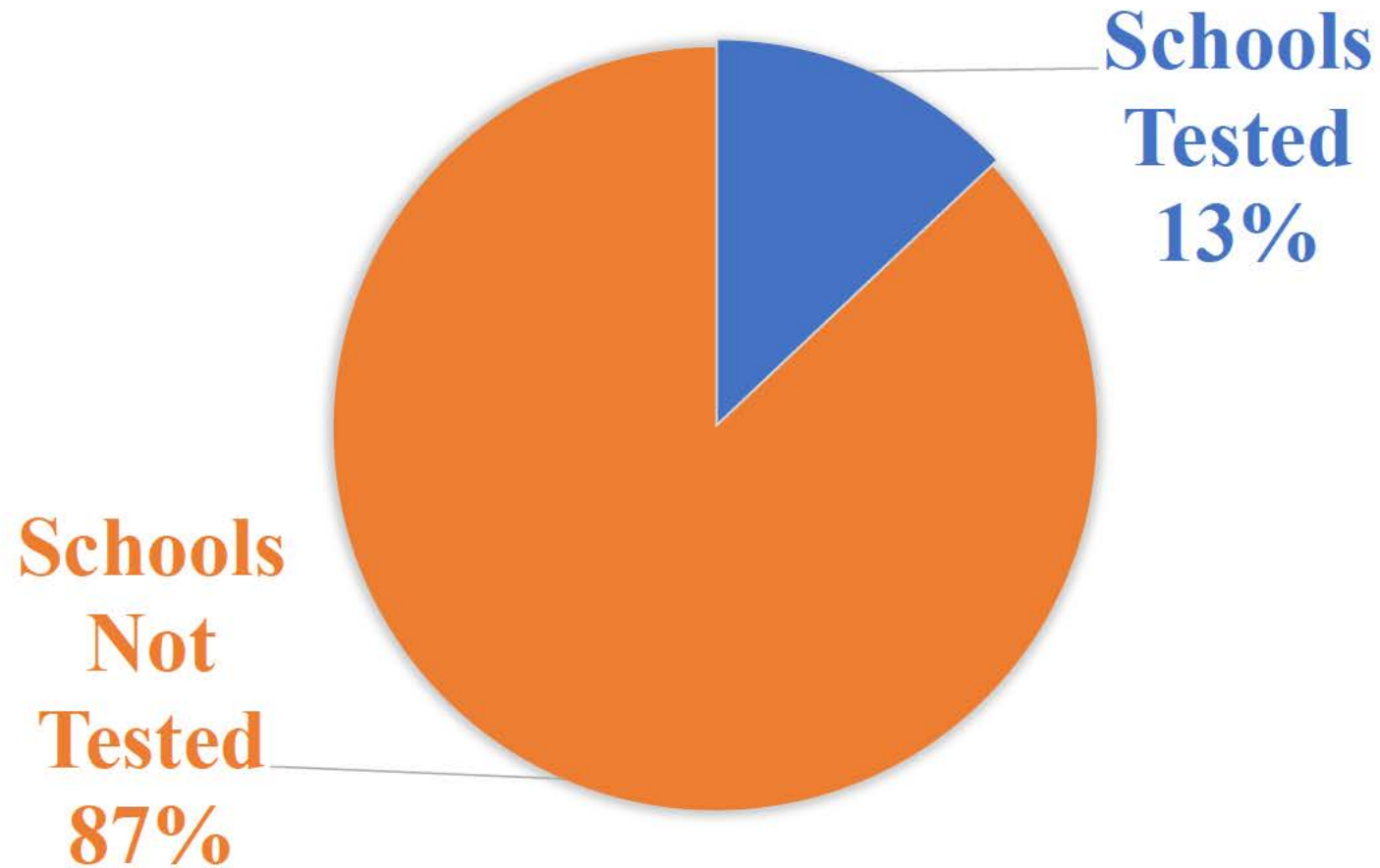
Water
Infrastructure
Improvements for
the Nation (WIIN)
Grant

- Used to cover sampling costs
- Cannot be used for abatement

Sampling Timeline

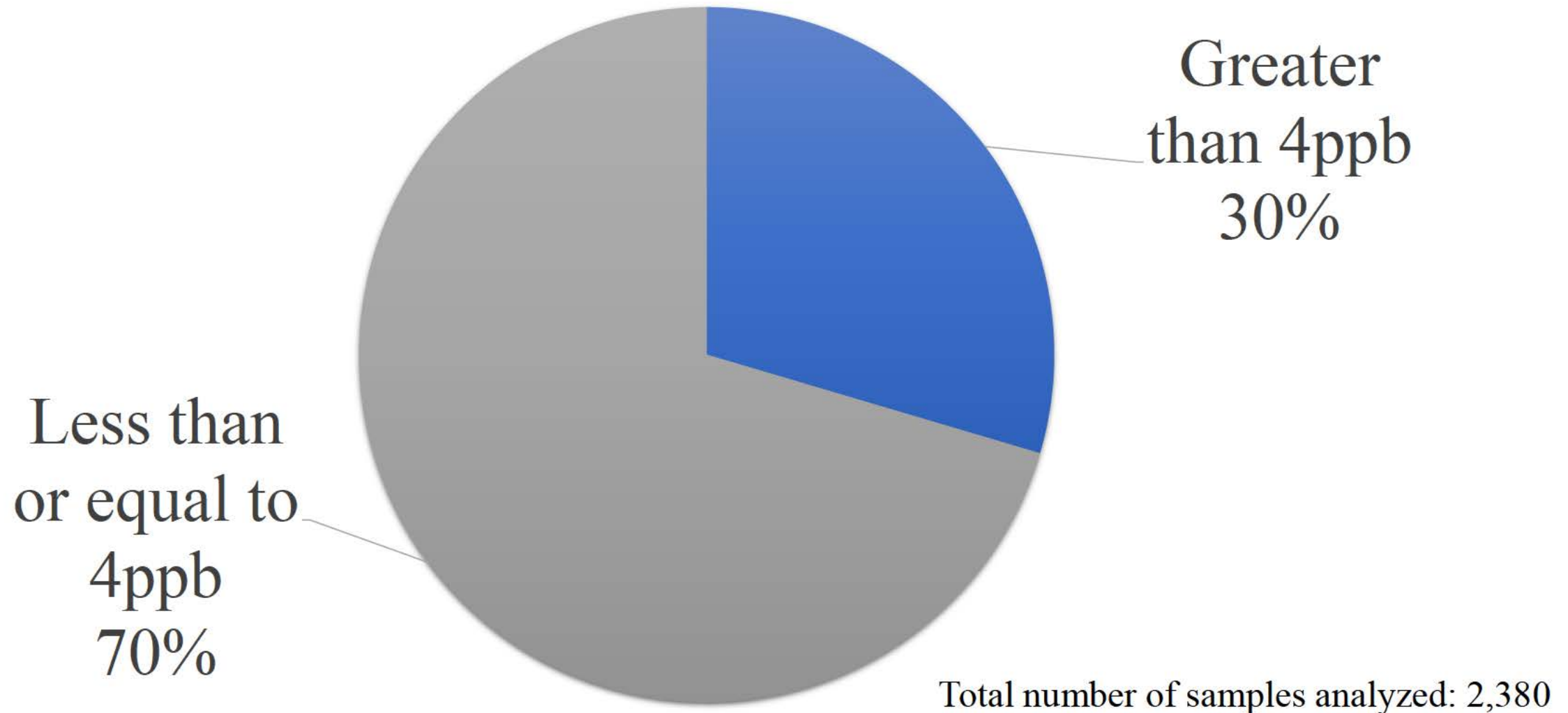


Samples Analyzed through 1/19/22

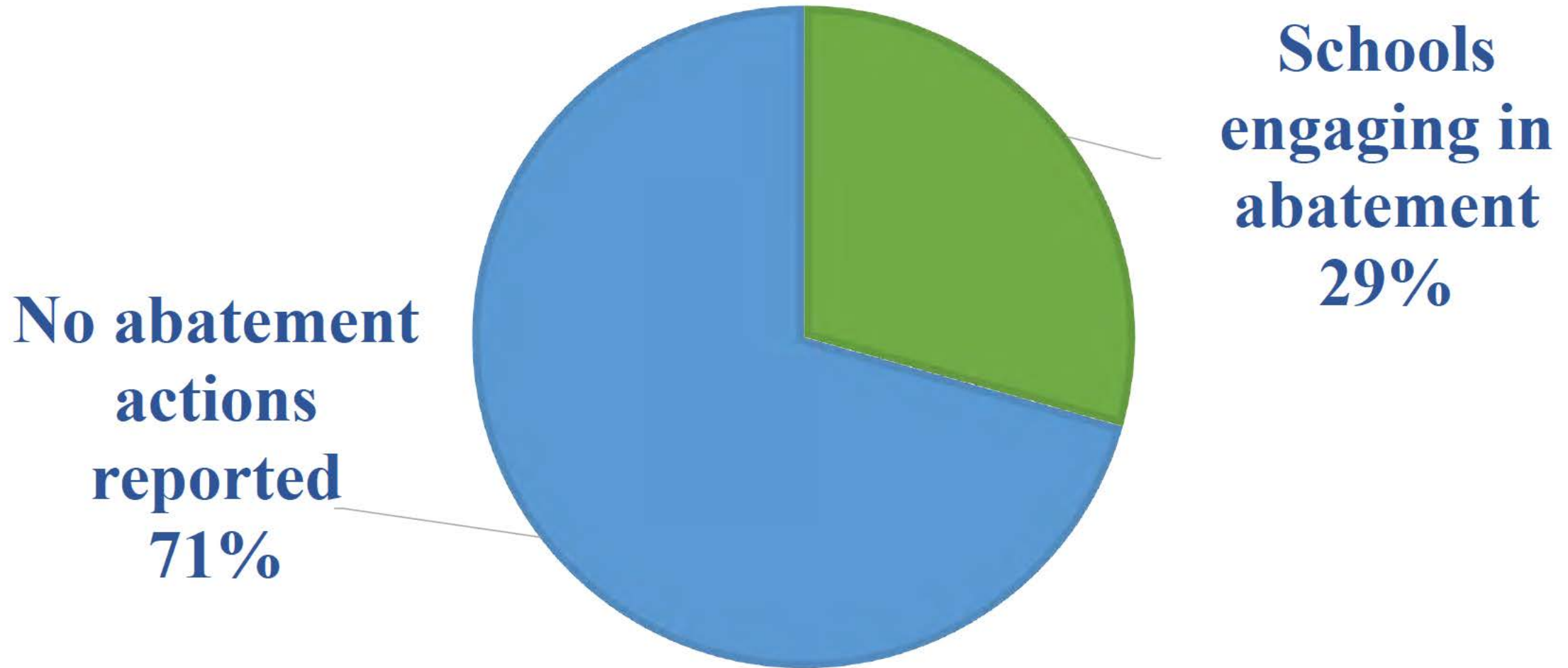


Total number of schools = 710

Testing Results



Abatement Actions Taken



Types of Abatement Recorded

Routine
Flushing

Cleaning
Aerators

Shutting Off
Fixtures

Do-Not-Drink
Signs

Providing
Bottled Water

Removing/
Replacing
Fixture

Install a Filter

Adding Corrosion
Control
Chemicals

Outreach Efforts

- Webinars at multiple school conferences and organizations
- Partnered with A&L Lab and other organizations
- Webpage for public information: www.medwp.com, under “What’s New?”
 - Documents designed to help public understand lead testing (FAQ, health information, and understanding lead results)
 - Training documents and videos for school staff
 - Flyers to advertise program (distributed through six school organizations)
 - School Testing Results

Follow up

- Review lab results
- Post all test results on the DWP webpage
- Review public notices
- Follow up with schools that are missing public notice materials
- Follow up with schools that failed to collect samples
- Answer questions from schools and parents regarding results
- DWP does not have the staff capacity to follow up on all high results

Maine CDC Drinking Water Program

Questions?

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