

Testing Fluoride Content of Well Water

Policy

Head Start families who rely on private well water as their primary source of drinking water will be offered a test to analyze the level of naturally-occurring fluoride in the water.

Procedure

- Once each year, field staff will identify families who use well water as their primary source of drinking water.
- A kit and instructions to collect the water sample will be given directly to parents by staff. If necessary, staff will assist in taking the sample.
- Samples and required information will be sent to the Head Start office to forward to a qualified lab for analysis.
- The Head Start office will send a letter to families notifying them of the results. Results will be shared with the child's doctor and/or dentist with whom a consent has been signed.
- If fluoride levels are either too high or low, parents will be encouraged to talk to their doctor and/or dentist for appropriate action, and vice versa. Staff will also be provide with test results and will help with the referral process as needed.
- Head Start will pay for the test no more than once every three years for each family. This is the length of time recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency to analyze well water.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45CFR Section 1304.20

Approved by HAC on 5-16-02.

Approved by Policy Council on 3-22-2005.

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