



Old Dominion Association of Church Schools

Update for Church-run Preschools and Daycares Potable Water Testing Requirement – VDOE Update, Dated April 5, 2024

April 27, 2024

Dear Pastors and Administrators,

On April 5, VDOE sent a memo to all Religiously Exempt preschools and daycares. The subject of the memo is a new testing requirement for potable drinking water for children in our preschools and daycares. According to the memo, the new requirements take effect on January 1, 2025.

If you read the memo carefully, you will learn that your preschool and daycare can avoid the testing requirement by using only bottled water for human consumption. The challenge, however, is that the definition of *human consumption* includes activities such as food preparation, dish washing, and hand washing.

Some of our ministries may already be in compliance with the testing requirement anyway, in which case no changes will need to be made. Proof of compliance will simply need to be added to your Religious Exemption paperwork.

VDOE will host a webinar on May 7 at 10:00 a.m. to present more information about the new requirement. If you have a Religiously Exempt preschool or daycare, ODACS advises you to participate in the webinar to learn more details. VDOE included details about the webinar in their Readiness Connections e-mail on April 23. I have registered for the webinar on behalf of ODACS, and the registration link is below.

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/fe79cc54-e992-470e-8c8d-1ea138e1fafd@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Please note that the new requirements apply only to preschools and daycares. They do not apply to students in K-12 classes.

Sincerely,

Dan Zacharias
Executive Director