

Dr. Scott Taylor
Superintendent

October 6, 2022

District community-

The New Jersey State Board of Education requires all schools to test for lead in drinking water outlets once every three years. To protect our community and be in compliance with the regulation, the school district recently tested schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the regulations, the district will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, "non-drinkable water" signs have been posted.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the district. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 323 samples taken, all but 6 tested above the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ for lead, the actual lead level, and what remedial action the district has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in $\mu\text{g/l}$ (ppb)	Remedial Action
Battle Hill School All bubblers	161	The water is shut off on all bubblers and all bubblers will be replaced with water coolers with a filtration system.

Battle Hill School Three sinks next to stage	167/20.6/17.3	Non-Drinkable Signs have been installed.
Battle Hill School Sink in Room 13	39.3	Non-Drinkable Sign has been installed.
Burnet Middle School All bubblers	4.9/131/149	The water is shut off on all bubblers and all bubblers will be replaced with water coolers with a filtration system.
Connecticut Farms School Water cooler outside Room 5	18.7	Replaced cartridge on the water cooler.
Connecticut Farms School Sink in Library Office 207	18.8	A Non-Drinkable Sign has been installed.
Connecticut Farms School Bubbler hall by Room 206	16.8	The water is shut off on all bubblers and all bubblers will be replaced with water coolers with a filtration system.

Franklin School Four bubblers	60.1/24.1/16.9/37.2	The water is shut off on all bubblers and all bubblers will be replaced with water coolers with a filtration system.
Livingston School Two kitchen sinks	66.2/24.9	A filtration system will be added to each sink.
Livingston School Five Bubblers	158/19/56.5/29.3/22.6	The water is shut off on all bubblers and all bubblers will be replaced with water coolers with a filtration system.
Union High School Water cooler outside Room A102	70.1	Replaced cartridge on the water cooler.
Union High School Home economics sink G116	19.2	A filtration system will be added to the sink.
Union High School All bubblers	21.0/24.5/22.6/22.8/26.0/566 493/18.4/18.6/19.5/36.5	The water is shut off on all bubblers and all bubblers will be replaced with water coolers

		with a filtration system.
Washington School Water cooler Hall by Room 223	68.0	Replaced cartridge on the water cooler.
Washington School Two bubblers Hall by Room 125 Hall by Room 206	17.4/18.2	The water is shut off on all bubblers and all bubblers will be replaced with water coolers with a filtration system.

Health Effects of Lead

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers, and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and are also available on our website at twpunionschools.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Kelvin White at the Board of Education, Operations & Maintenance Department, 908-851-6427.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Website at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,



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