



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE”

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
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March 23, 2017

Dear Members of the Holmdel Township School District Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and to remain in compliance with Department of Education regulations, the Holmdel Township School District is in the process of testing all of our schools’ drinking water outlets for lead. As we receive them, the results for each individual school will be posted on the district website.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the Holmdel Township School District will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/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, a “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY” sign will be posted.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we have completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within our district. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 227 samples taken, all but 5 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water and food preparation outlets (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water and food preparation outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action the Holmdel Township School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Building	Sample Location	Level	Remedial Action
Village School	N/A	N/A	All Village School drinking water/food preparation outlets below lead action level
Indian Hill School	Sample IHF 22 (Water Fountain-Nurse's Office)	16.4 µg/l	Water turned off; fountain to be replaced and retested
William R. Satz School	Sample K2 (Sink-Food Service Kitchen)	30.2 µg/l	Water turned off and sign posted “DO NOT DRINK-SAFE FOR HAND WASHING ONLY” Faucet to be replaced and retested.
	Sample K3 (Sink-Food Service Kitchen)	34.9 µg/l	Water turned off and sign posted “DO NOT DRINK-SAFE FOR HAND WASHING ONLY” Faucet to be replaced and retested.
Holmdel High School	Sample HSCA 2 (Sink-Culinary Arts Room)	21.4 µg/l	Water turned off and sign posted “DO NOT DRINK-SAFE FOR HAND WASHING ONLY” Faucet to be replaced and retested.
	Sample HSCC 1 (Cafeteria - Cappuccino Maker)	131 µg/l	Water turned off, plumbing to machine to be replaced and retested.

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

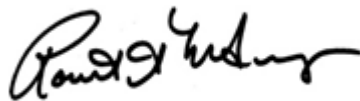
Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

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 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.holmdelschools.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Ernest Tricomi, Director of Plant, Operations and Maintenance at the Holmdel Township School District, 732-946-1813 ext. 3421.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert McGarry
Superintendent of Schools