Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED WATER SAMPLE RESULT
Southampton Middle School

ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On February 23, March 20, and April 5 and 11, 2019, three hundred and two (302) lead water samples were collected from Southampton Middle School. Of these lead water samples, **forty-eight** had levels of lead exceeding the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the samples collected at Southampton Middle School were as follows:

30.4 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 134 sink, left**
226 parts per billion (ppb**) Drinking fountain across from Room 131**
36.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Girl's restroom sink across from Room 130, right**
53.1 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 124 drinking fountain**
29.9 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 117 drinking fountain**
65.4 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 115 sink**
108 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 104 drinking fountain**
50.2 parts per billion (ppb**) Drinking fountain across from Room 109**
20.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Kettle, left**
24.6 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 233 sink**
43.9 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 232 sink**
41.2 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 230 sink, first left**
122 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 230 sink, second left**
71.2 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 230 sink, third left**
48.4 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 230 sink, fourth left**
148 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 230 sink, fifth left**
186 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 230 sink, fifth right**
48.7 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 230 sink, fourth right**
22.2 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 230 sink, second right**
612 parts per billion (ppb**) Room S23 Chemical storage sink**
132 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, second left**
731 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, third left**
248 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, fourth left**
31.3 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, fifth left**
2130 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, fifth right**
417 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, fourth right**
59.1 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, third right**
254 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, second right**
78.4 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 229 sink, first right**
31.2 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 226 sink, second left**
85.2 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 226 sink, third left**
51.9 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 226 sink, fourth left**
38.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 226 sink, fifth left**
179 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 226 sink, fifth right**
83.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 226 sink, fourth right**
23.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 226 sink, third right**
745 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 226 sink, second right**
20.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 228 sink, second left**
277 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 228 sink, third left**

121 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 228 sink, fourth left**
326 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 228 sink, fifth left**
35.7 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 228 sink, fifth right**
34 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 228 sink, fourth right**
2080 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 221 sink, fifth right**
927 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 221 sink, fourth right**
534 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 221 sink, third right**
640 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 221 sink, second right**
159 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 221 sink, first right**

ACTION LEVEL (AL)
The AL is 20 ppb for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD
Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD
There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN
Results were received on September 24, 2019. Handwash only signs were placed at the sinks and fountains were turned off.

NEXT STEPS
At this time our remedial action is to use these sinks for hand washing only. Drinking fountains that are replaced and tested will be placed back into service after passing the test.

TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:
1. Run your water to flush out lead**:** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.

Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. For additional information, please contact **Patti Jo Beard, Harford County Public Schools,** at **410-638-4088.** For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead. If you are concerned about exposure; contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.