Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

Updated in response to legislation effective as of June 1, 2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)
Southampton Middle School

ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)

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 19 and 23, 2022, one hundred and six** lead water samples were collected from **Southampton Middle School**. Of these lead water samples**, thirty-one** had levels of lead exceeding the State's revised action level of 5 parts per billion (ppb) *(formerly 20 ppb; 5 ppb effective June 1, 2021)* for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the samples collected at **Southampton Middle School** are as follows:

Drinking fountain across from Rm 124	6.5 ppb
Kettle, left	45.5 ppb
Kettle, right	15.0 ppb
Small kettle	21.0 ppb
Drinking fountain, outside gym, left	191.3 ppb
Room 218 Drinking fountain	25.5 ppb
Room 217 Drinking fountain	27.6 ppb
Room 216 Drinking fountain	4679 ppb
Room 214 Drinking fountain	561 ppb
Room 213 Drinking fountain	6.2 ppb
Room 212 Drinking fountain	322.6 ppb
Room 211 Drinking fountain	70.8 ppb
F-21 Faculty sink	36.1 ppb
F-21 Faculty drinking fountain	75.5 ppb
Drinking fountain across from Room 218	33.7 ppb
F-20 Faculty drinking fountain	74.5 ppb
Room 208 Drinking fountain	316.4 ppb
Room 207 Drinking fountain	57.6 ppb
Room 129 Home Ec sink, second left	10.4 ppb
Room 129 Home Ec sink, third left	54.5 ppb
Room 129 Home Ec sink, fourth left	9.9 ppb
Room 129 Home Ec sink, second right	7.1 ppb
Room 119 Drinking fountain	24.7 ppb
F-2 Faculty drinking fountain	21.3 ppb
Room 116 Drinking fountain	41.9 ppb
Room 115 Drinking fountain	410.9 ppb
Room 113 Drinking fountain	413.0 ppb
Room 112 Drinking fountain	9.0 ppb
Room 110 Drinking fountain	445.0 ppb
F1 Faculty lounge sink	1249 ppb
Room 103 Drinking fountain	59.0 ppb

ACTION LEVEL (AL)
Effective June 1, 2021, the State's AL for lead in drinking water samples collected from outlets in school buildings has been lowered to 5 ppb. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation of drinking water outlets.

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 sources 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 workplace 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
Access to the drinking fountains and Room 129 sinks was restricted. Signs were posted at the Faculty room sinks: "Handwash Only." Signs were posted at the kettles: "Run Water For 30 Seconds Before Using."

NEXT STEPS
The drinking fountains will be replaced or removed. Fixtures on the sinks and kettles will be replaced.

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

For additional information, please contact **Rich Hanzevack,** Harford County Public Schools Facilities Department 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.