Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED WATER SAMPLE RESULT
Magnolia 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 9 and 14, 2019 one hundred seventy-five (175) lead water samples were collected from Magnolia Middle School. Of these lead water samples, **twenty-seven** 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 Magnolia Middle School were as follows:

65.2 parts per billion (ppb**) Boy's restroom sink by 121, right**
23.6 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 116 by AR 11, fourth left sink**
24.9 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 117 right sink**
34.7 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 117 third right sink**
85.9 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 117 fifth right sink**
21.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 117 backwall, right sink**
44.6 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 107 fifth left sink**
226 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 106 next to 105, fifth right sink**
30.3 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 106 next to 105, second right sink**
97.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 106 next to 105, right sink nearest door**
254 parts per billion (ppb**) Women's restroom across from Gym 1, second left sink**
27.8 parts per billion (ppb**) Media center, material storage, right office sink**
101 parts per billion (ppb**) Girl's restroom sink, pool locker room**
244 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 218 Ins. Computer lab, back wall, fourth left sink**
20 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 218 Ins. Computer lab, back wall right sink**
75.3 parts per billion (ppb**) Boy's restroom across from 218, far left sink**
26.5 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 216, next to AR 21, fifth left sink**
101 parts per billion (ppb**) SR21 Storage room 216 sink**
31.6 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 208 drinking fountain PPW**
50.8 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 206, next to 205, left sink**
45.9 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 206, next to 205, second left sink**
64.6 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 206, next to 205, third left sink**
42.1 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 206, next to 205, fifth right sink**
20.7 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 206, next to 205, fourth right sink**
38.1 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 206, next to 205, third right sink**
49.8 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 206, next to 205, second right sink**
45.6 parts per billion (ppb**) Room 207, from hallway, back wall, left sink**

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 July 30, 2019. Handwash only signs were placed at the sinks. The fountain was taken out of service.

NEXT STEPS

At this time our remedial action is to use these sinks for hand washing only and to permanently disconnect the drinking fountain.

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.