

WALLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“There is Power in Pride”

www.wboe.org

Dr. James J. Albro
Superintendent of Schools
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JEFFERSON SCHOOL
32 Pine Street
Wallington, NJ 07057
(973) 777-4421

July 29, 2020

Wallington High School
234 Main Avenue

Jefferson School Annex
6 Bond Street

Frank W. Gavlak Elementary School
106 King Street

RE: Lead in Drinking Water Follow-up Testing

Dear Wallington Public Schools Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting the health of all students, teachers, staff and visitors. To protect our community and be in compliance with the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE) lead in drinking water regulations, our school has retained an independent environmental consulting firm (Garden State Environmental, Inc.) to complete testing of all drinking water outlets in each school for lead, in accordance with the NJ Department of Education (DOE) regulations and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) guidelines.

Initial sampling of the District drinking water outlets was completed in 2017. In accordance with the NJDOE regulations, all drinking water outlets must be tested every six (6) years. The District has decided to complete the mandated periodic sampling after the third year; in April, 2020. At that time, the overall Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) was updated to reflect the latest information.

Remedial measures for any drinking water outlet will be implemented if the result is greater than the Lead Action Level of 15 µg/l (Parts Per Billion [PPB]). This includes shutting down 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 and Actions Taken

Sampling was conducted on April 14, 2020. A total of five (5) outlets were sampled at Jefferson School Annex and twenty-seven (27) outlets were sampled at Frank W. Gavlak Elementary

School. All results in those two schools were below the lead action level and no follow-up testing was required.

At Wallington High School twenty-three (23) samples were collected with one (1) of the tested outlets showing elevated levels of lead greater than the NJDOE Lead Action Level of 15 PPB, as described below. Due to this elevated sample result, the flush sample for the elevated outlet was sent to the laboratory for analysis; results are outlined below. All other outlets sampled at Wallington High School were well within the normal range and do not require any follow-up at this time.

The table below identifies the results of the first draw and flush sample of the right sink in the Media Center at Wallington High School.

Sample ID	Location	Outlet Type	Results (ppb)	Remedial Action
WHS-1-S-03A (first draw)	Media Center, Right	Sink	33.2	Keep the outlet as a "Hand Wash Only" outlet.
WHS-1-S-03B (post flush)	Media Center, Right	Sink	14.9	Proactively install a lead filter to reduce lead concentrations.

While the outlet above is only used for hand washing, the District is proactively implementing additional remedial action to reduce lead concentrations of this outlet as outlined in the table above.

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 2017 and 2020 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 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Results are also available on our website at www.wboe.org. For more information about the water quality in our schools, contact Joseph Brunacki, III at 973-777-4151.

For more information about lead in drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA website at www.epa.gov/lead, or the NJ Dept. of Health website at https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/dw_lead_factsheet.pdf.

Sincerely,



James J. Albro
Superintendent of Schools