

A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

Daniel Webster Elementary School

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

4/17/2021

To protect public health, the New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. A “first draw” sample is required for evaluation. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is first draw testing of school drinking water for lead?

Water faucets in schools are often not used regularly or consistently like they might be in another type of facility. The “on-again, off-again” nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with the plumbing systems and as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This year in particular, the coronavirus (COVID-19) caused our school facilities to have limited occupancy for an extended period of time, which can also result in adverse stagnant water conditions. Lead could be contained in piping systems, components, valves, or faucets. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a minimum of 8 hours before the sample is taken. This “first draw” sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What are the results of the first draw testing?

Daniel Webster Elementary School - New Rochelle City School District				
Date	Sample ID	Floor	Location	Lead Level (ppb)
3/24/2021	002-102-P-CF-02	1	Room 102, Classroom sink 2	36.8
3/24/2021	001-BOYS-BF-P-18	Basement	Boys by elevator, Bathroom (left) sink 18	38.8
3/24/2021	001-BOYS-BF-P-19	Basement	Boys by elevator, Bathroom (right) sink 19	37.9
3/24/2021	001-GIRLS-BF-P-20	Basement	Girls by elevator, Bathroom (left) sink 20	17
3/24/2021	001-GIRLS-BF-P-21	Basement	Girls by elevator, Bathroom (right) sink 21	25.2
3/24/2021	001-DANCE-CF-P-15	Basement	Dance studio, Classroom sink 15	34.4

What is being done in response to the results?

Immediate Action:

Classroom and kitchen outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (15 ppb) were removed from service. Outlets in lavatories will remain active with “Handwashing only” signage posted. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

Planned Remedial Action:

The District will evaluate each location to determine if the faucet location should be returned to service, and if so, the faucet will be replaced with a new faucet that meets the current federal standard for a “no lead” product. Additional testing at those locations will also be conducted.

As part of the law, these results are being reported to you as well as the New York State Department of Health. Please note that this letter only contains a summary of those potential sources that exceeded the standard of 15 ppb. The full testing results of all locations can be seen on the district’s website at https://www.nred.org/groups/17137/health_safety/lead_in_schools_water_situation#gsc.tab=0

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of potential lead exposure in the environment, at home, and at school. It is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing at school helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors; for example, a child’s age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child’s blood lead level, parents should discuss their child’s health history with their child’s physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results,

contact the Facilities department at (914) 576-4222, or visit the districts website at

https://www.nred.org/groups/17137/health_safety/lead_in_schools_water_situation#gsc.tab=0

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, go to:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (available in ten languages).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Alex Marrero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Alex Marrero,
Interim Superintendent of Schools