



# ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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May 23, 2022

Rockaway Township School District  
Copeland Middle School  
100 Lakeshore Drive  
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

Dear Copeland School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Rockaway Township School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Copeland Middle School will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$  (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off 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

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within Rockaway Township School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 51 samples taken, all but 7 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$  [ppb]). Further, please be informed that the Public Water System that services the school is required to conduct lead and copper monitoring in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the public water system is in compliance with its lead and copper monitoring in accordance with the US Environmental Protection Agency and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$  for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Rockaway Township School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result (ppb)	Flush Draw Result (ppb)	Remedial Action	Lead Hazard Yes/No
Library Office	19.7	5.97	Disconnected water in sink Posted "Do Not Drink" sign	No

## 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.

## For More Information

A copy of the 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 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at [www.rocktwp.org](http://www.rocktwp.org). For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Rachel DeCarlo at the Administration Building, (973) 627-8200.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Mr. Bruce Watson  
Interim Superintendent of Schools