

CRESSKILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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June 30, 2022

Merritt Memorial School
Cresskill Board of Education
1 Dogwood Lane
Cresskill, NJ 07626

Dear Merritt Memorial 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, Cresskill Board of Education tested our school's drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Merritt Memorial School will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/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.

All denoted areas of remediation were not used as drinking stations by students this year, but are still subject to periodic testing requirements per regulation.

Testing Results

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 Cresskill School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 23 samples taken, all but 6 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Cresskill Board of Education has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw	Remedial Action
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	Result in µg/l (ppb)	
Classroom Sink, Room 102 Rear (Right) ID#CME-CS-1FL-102-2	50	Posted signage “DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”
Water Fountain, Hallway by Room 202 ID#CME-DW-2FL-HALL202	31.9	Disconnected outlet
Classroom Sink, Room 102 Rear (Left) ID#CME-CS-1FL-102-1	109	Posted signage “DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”
Water Fountain, Hallway by Main Office ID#CME-DW-1FL-HALLMAINFOFF	48.3	Disconnected outlet
Classroom Sink, Room 100 ID#CME-CS-1FL-100	15.8	Posted signage “DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”
Teacher’s Lounge Sink, Faculty room ID#CME-TL-2FL-FAC	71.2	Posted signage “DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”

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 test results is available in our board 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

<https://www.cboek12.org/o/cps/page/water-testing-information-2022>. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Dawn Delasandro at the Board Office, 201-227-7791, ext 1205.

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**, 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,

Michael Burke

Superintendent of Schools
Cresskill School District