Oaklyn Public School District

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December 15, 2021

Dear Oaklyn and Collingswood Public Schools Public Schools Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and follow the Department of Education regulations, Oaklyn and Collingswood Public Schools recently began testing our schools' drinking water for lead. Sampling for Oaklyn Public School occurred on 12/03/21

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Oaklyn and Collingswood Public Schools 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.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we have completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within Oaklyn and Collingswood Public Schools. Through this effort, we have identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets at Oaklyn Public School. Of the 29 samples taken, all but 2 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 remedial action Oaklyn and Collingswood Public Schools has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	**First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)**	**Remedial Action**
Oak 1 *Water Cooler outside of the faculty lounge	16.9	Permanently remove unit from service and cap off supply and drain lines
Oak 16 *Water Cooler outside of classroom 200	16.4	Permanently remove unit from service and cap off supply and drain lines

*Please note that these units have been out of service since September of 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. All units currently in use have tested below the lead action limit.

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 central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Results are also available on both district websites at: https://www.collingswood.k12.nj.us. and https://www.oaklynschool.org/ For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Keith Higginbotham, Director of buildings & Grounds at (856) 962-5701 ext. 6145.

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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,

Dr. Frederick McDowell
Superintendent of Schools