

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF SCHOOL LEAD SAMPLING**  
**RSU29 SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**May 2, 2022**

Maine law requires schools in Maine to perform public notice of water testing and certification of the district's lead sampling results (*LD206-HP141*).

Some items to consider when viewing the results:

- ***All drinking fountains in each school have passed with acceptable levels***
- Acceptable levels of lead have been adjusted by the State from 15 ppb in 2021 to 4 ppb in 2022, resulting in water sources that were in compliance last year to not pass this year
- RSU29 **WILL** be re-testing samples in the next 1-2 weeks
- We will request Houlton Water Company to test the water main connecting to the Middle/High School to affirm water safety.
- Water sources that did not pass have been shut off until further verification can be completed.

If anyone has specific questions regarding the results, please contact the RSU29 Central Office at 207-532-6555.



# Information about Lead in Drinking Water for Students, Staff, and Parents



## Health Effects of Lead

If too much lead enters your body from drinking water or other sources, serious health problems can occur, including damage to the brain and kidneys and interference with the production of oxygen-carrying red blood cells.

The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women: During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother, which may affect brain development. In children, the continuing effects of lead on the brain have been linked to lowered IQ. Furthermore, lead is stored in the bones and can be released later in life, so, adults who were exposed to high levels of lead earlier in life may still encounter kidney problems and high blood pressure.

## Sources of Lead

Lead can be found in many places; knowing the sources of lead can help limit your contact with it. Although most of the reported cases of lead poisoning in Maine have been a result of lead paint dust, exposure can also occur through drinking and cooking with water that has lead, as it can dissolve into water from solder or brass faucets, fittings, and valves. Exposure to lead can also come from jobs and hobbies that utilize materials containing lead, as well as from things you buy such as toys and antiques.

## How Lead Got into Your Water

The most likely source of lead in your water is leaching from lead solder on your pipes or out of brass plumbing materials found in faucets, fittings, and valves.

## Steps You Can Take to Protect Yourself from Lead in Drinking Water

- Run the water for at least 30 seconds or until it becomes noticeably colder before using it for drinking or cooking. The longer water sits in piping, the greater the chance that lead might leach in.
- Use cold water for drinking and cooking as well as for preparing baby formula. Hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold water.
- Clean your faucet aerator (screen) regularly.
- Consider using bottled water or a water filter for drinking and cooking.

\* Remember: Boiling the water does *not* reduce lead levels.

## Find Out More

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>, or contact the Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (866-292-3474) or your health care provider. Your doctor can answer questions about having your child tested for lead.

# Public Notice: School Lead Water Sample Results

Information concerning the lead level results for drinking water samples taken at

RSU29 Houghton Elementary School  
name of school

Maine law requires schools to test all drinking water faucets that could be used for drinking or cooking purposes for the presence of lead. This law further requires that parents and staff are made aware of all of the sample results.

During the period of 2-10-22 to 2-20-22  
begin date end date

Water samples were collected from 19 water fixtures.  
# locations

*Any sites producing elevated levels of lead (exceeding 4 parts per billion, or ppb), and therefore the faucets of most concern, are listed in the table on the following page(s).*

Results for all drinking water outlets tested can be viewed here:

rsu29.org

Enter website address or physical location

Statewide test results for Maine schools can also be found the on Maine DWP website at: [www.medwp.com/schools.html](http://www.medwp.com/schools.html)

**How does lead get into the water?** When lead is present in water, it typically leaches, or dissolves, into water flowing through plumbing and fixtures *inside* a building from sources such as solder, pipes, or the faucets themselves. The school's well water or water provided by your local water district are unlikely sources of lead.

**What are the Health Effects of exposure to lead in drinking water?** Infants and children who drink water containing high levels of lead can experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing excess levels of lead over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

**What level of lead is safe?** No level of lead is safe. Because of the potential serious health risks, both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood.

Please be aware that this sampling is done under conditions that are optimal for identifying lead in water. By having the water sit unused for many hours, lead that might be leaching from pipes or fittings is more easily discovered. However, *these levels are likely not the level of lead present in the drinking water throughout the school day.*

**What can I do?** Here are a few steps you can take to reduce the risk of your child being exposed to lead through school drinking water:

- Provide your child with bottled water or water from your home to reduce their usage of school drinking water outlets. Be sure to sample your home water for lead, too.
- Remind your child to let the water run for 30 seconds before drinking or filling a water bottle at school, which will lower any possible lead concentration.
- Consult your doctor if you have any specific health concerns.

## School Fixtures with Elevated Lead Results (exceeding 4 parts per billion)

\*Additional tables may be attached if your school has more than 20 collection sites with elevated lead levels.

	Collection Date	Collection Site	Concentration (ppb)
1		Room #1 sink	5.8
2		Room #2 sink	10.3
3		Room #3 Sink	10.9
4		Room #4 sink	7.3
5		Room #5 sink	9.1
6		Kitchen dish sprayer	5.1
7		Kitchen hand wash sink	6.9
8		Kitchen steamer	20.7
9		Kitchen skillet	28.4
10		Kitchen reggie wash sink	5.4
11		Kitchen 3-bay dishwasher sink	4.4
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

### What is Being Done:

To correct the problem(s), we have taken these actions:

RSU 29 will be re-testing samples in the next 1-2 week.  
 Requesting Houlton Water Company to test water mains  
 Water sources are shut off until further verification is done.

Future plans for the reduction of high lead levels in our drinking water include:

inspect fixtures and replace if applicable.

These actions are expected to be completed on: May 31, 2022 (Date)

# Public Notice: School Lead Water Sample Results

Information concerning the lead level results for drinking water samples taken at

RSU29 Houlton Southside School  
name of school

Maine law requires schools to test all drinking water faucets that could be used for drinking or cooking purposes for the presence of lead. This law further requires that parents and staff are made aware of all of the sample results.

During the period of 02/10/22 to 02/20/22  
begin date end date

Water samples were collected from 21 water fixtures.  
# locations

*Any sites producing elevated levels of lead (exceeding 4 parts per billion, or ppb), and therefore the faucets of most concern, are listed in the table on the following page(s).*

Results for all drinking water outlets tested can be viewed here:

rsu29.org  
Enter website address or physical location

Statewide test results for Maine schools can also be found the on Maine DWP website at: [www.medwp.com/schools.html](http://www.medwp.com/schools.html)

**How does lead get into the water?** When lead is present in water, it typically leaches, or dissolves, into water flowing through plumbing and fixtures *inside* a building from sources such as solder, pipes, or the faucets themselves. The school's well water or water provided by your local water district are unlikely sources of lead.

**What are the Health Effects of exposure to lead in drinking water?** Infants and children who drink water containing high levels of lead can experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing excess levels of lead over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

**What level of lead is safe?** No level of lead is safe. Because of the potential serious health risks, both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood.

Please be aware that this sampling is done under conditions that are optimal for identifying lead in water. By having the water sit unused for many hours, lead that might be leaching from pipes or fittings is more easily discovered. However, *these levels are likely not the level of lead present in the drinking water throughout the school day.*

**What can I do?** Here are a few steps you can take to reduce the risk of your child being exposed to lead through school drinking water:

- Provide your child with bottled water or water from your home to reduce their usage of school drinking water outlets. Be sure to sample your home water for lead, too.
- Remind your child to let the water run for 30 seconds before drinking or filling a water bottle at school, which will lower any possible lead concentration.
- Consult your doctor if you have any specific health concerns.

## School Fixtures with Elevated Lead Results (exceeding 4 parts per billion)

\*Additional tables may be attached if your school has more than 20 collection sites with elevated lead levels.

	Collection Date	Collection Site	Concentration (ppb)
1		Kitchen Bathroom sink	4.1
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

### What is Being Done:

To correct the problem(s), we have taken these actions:

The district will re-test the source and if still non-compliant will shut off water source.

Future plans for the reduction of high lead levels in our drinking water include:

inspect fixtures to see if replacement is needed.

These actions are expected to be completed on: May 31, 2022 (Date)

# Public Notice: School Lead Water Sample Results

Information concerning the lead level results for drinking water samples taken at

RSU29 Hoolton Middle/High School  
name of school

Maine law requires schools to test all drinking water faucets that could be used for drinking or cooking purposes for the presence of lead. This law further requires that parents and staff are made aware of all of the sample results.

During the period of 2/10/22 to 2/20/22  
begin date end date

Water samples were collected from 30 water fixtures.  
# locations

*Any sites producing elevated levels of lead (exceeding 4 parts per billion, or ppb), and therefore the faucets of most concern, are listed in the table on the following page(s).*

Results for all drinking water outlets tested can be viewed here:

rsu29.org  
Enter website address or physical location

Statewide test results for Maine schools can also be found on the Maine DWP website at: [www.medwp.com/schools.html](http://www.medwp.com/schools.html)

**How does lead get into the water?** When lead is present in water, it typically leaches, or dissolves, into water flowing through plumbing and fixtures *inside* a building from sources such as solder, pipes, or the faucets themselves. The school's well water or water provided by your local water district are unlikely sources of lead.

**What are the Health Effects of exposure to lead in drinking water?** Infants and children who drink water containing high levels of lead can experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing excess levels of lead over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

**What level of lead is safe?** No level of lead is safe. Because of the potential serious health risks, both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood.

Please be aware that this sampling is done under conditions that are optimal for identifying lead in water. By having the water sit unused for many hours, lead that might be leaching from pipes or fittings is more easily discovered. However, *these levels are likely not the level of lead present in the drinking water throughout the school day.*

**What can I do?** Here are a few steps you can take to reduce the risk of your child being exposed to lead through school drinking water:

- Provide your child with bottled water or water from your home to reduce their usage of school drinking water outlets. Be sure to sample your home water for lead, too.
- Remind your child to let the water run for 30 seconds before drinking or filling a water bottle at school, which will lower any possible lead concentration.
- Consult your doctor if you have any specific health concerns.

## School Fixtures with Elevated Lead Results (exceeding 4 parts per billion)

\*Additional tables may be attached if your school has more than 20 collection sites with elevated lead levels.

	Collection Date	Collection Site	Concentration (ppb)
1		Room #251 front sink	10.8
2		Room #251 back sink	12.9
3		Room # 255 front sink	10.6
4		Water fountain outside welding shop - not in service	29.9 *
5		Room # 110 right sink	4.6
6		Room # 110 left sink	10.6
7		Room # 105 sink	5.6
8		Room # 106 red sink	6.3
9		Room # 106 blue sink	6.0
10		Room # 106 green sink	5.5
11		Room # 106 yellow sink	5.4
12		PE Office sink (Graham)	40.2
13		PE Office Sink (Willard)	7.8
14		Boys visitor locker room sink	36.8
15		Teacher's room sink	4.3
16		Library kitchen sink	9.0
17		Sink in Cafeteria	5.9
18		Kitchen dish sprayer	9.2
19		Kitchen reggie wash sink	4.9
20		Kitchen hand wash sink by 3-bay sink	14.4
		Kitchen steamer	30.2

### What is Being Done:

To correct the problem(s), we have taken these actions:

RS029 will be re-testing samples in the next 1-2 weeks  
 Requesting Houlton Water Company to test water mains  
 water sources will be shut off if applicable until further verification is done.

Future plans for the reduction of high lead levels in our drinking water include:

inspect fixtures and replace if applicable.

These actions are expected to be completed on: May 31, 2022 (Date)