



February, 2017

Lead Testing at Community High School District 117

The Governor signed the “Lead in Drinking Water Testing Bill” on January 17, 2017. This bill requires certain school buildings to test the lead levels in drinking water. High School buildings are exempt from the new law. However, Community High School District 117 took a proactive approach and had its drinking water tested after the Flint Michigan problem became known.

The drinking water lead level, at Community High School District 117, is below 15ppb as required by the laws that govern water testing for High Schools.

For most contaminants, EPA sets an enforceable regulation called a maximum contaminant level or the highest level of a contaminant that EPA allows in drinking water. MCLs ensure that drinking water does not pose either a short-term or long-term health risk. EPA sets MCLs at levels that are economically and technologically feasible. Some states set MCLs which are more strict than EPA's. (MCL) based on the MCLG. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as possible, considering cost, benefits and the ability of public water systems to detect and remove contaminants using suitable treatment technologies.

However, because lead contamination of drinking water often results from corrosion of the plumbing materials belonging to water system customers, the EPA established a treatment technique rather than an MCL for lead. A treatment technique is an enforceable procedure or level of technological performance which water systems must follow to ensure control of a contaminant.

The treatment technique regulation for lead (referred to as the Lead and Copper Rule) requires water systems to control the corrosiveness of the water. The regulation also requires systems to collect tap samples from sites served by the system that are more likely to have plumbing materials containing lead.

If more than 10 percent of tap water samples exceed the lead action level of 15 parts per billion, then water systems are required to take additional actions including:

- Taking further steps optimize their corrosion control treatment (for water systems serving 50,000 people that have not fully optimized their corrosion control).
- Educating the public about lead in drinking water and actions consumers can take to reduce their exposure to lead.
- Replacing the portions of lead service lines (lines that connect distribution mains to customers) under the water system's control.