



DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 11, 2016

Dear Depew-School Community:

To protect public health, New York State (NYS) recently enacted a new regulation requiring that every school test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), NYS requires that action be taken to reduce the lead.

It is vital that schools conduct these tests, as high levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. 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.

The Depew Union Free School District tested its drinking water in every single building for lead, prior to the established deadlines in the legislation. In fact, we conducted our testing on Saturday, September 17, 2016 and subsequently received our results within the last ten (10) business days. As provided to us under specific protocols, we took first draw water samples, after letting the water remain unmoving in the pipes for 8 to 18 hours. Of the 284 water samples we tested, only 38 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. The time table for the remediation of each one of the identified sources will depend on the availability of parts, installation and the process of retesting. It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back in service and available for drinking and/or cooking, until the sources are fully mitigated and meet the New York State Department of Health standards. Listed below are the sites that exceeded the threshold, the result obtained from first draw sampling and the plan for mitigation.

Cayuga Elementary

109 samples tested, 11 exceeded 15 ppb (10%)
9 Hand Washing Sinks and 2 Kitchen Pot Fillers

Sources found in rooms

Classroom 179, test result was 126.74 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet was replaced on October 6th, the source was retested on October 7th and we are awaiting the new results. The drinking fountain associated with this sink did not exceed the reportable level and is safe for drinking.

Nurse's lavatory, room 100, test result was 27.33 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Men's Lavatory, room 191d, test result was 16.61 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet was replaced on October 6th, the source was retested on October 7th and we are awaiting the new results.

Faculty Lavatory, room 185f, test result was 18.55 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet was replaced on October 6th, the source was retested on October 7th and we are awaiting the new results.

Faculty Lavatory, room 122, test result was 16.64 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Classroom 140, test result was 39.05 ppb, the sink has been taken out of service temporarily and a repair is to be determined. Possible removal, as it is no longer needed in the classroom space.

Classroom 129, test result was 26.02 ppb, the sink has been taken out of service temporarily and repair is to be determined. Possible removal, as it is no longer needed in the classroom space.

Kitchen Staff Lavatory, room 103, test result was 19.58 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Girls Physical Education Office, room 105b, test result was 40.16 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen Sources

Kitchen, room 104, next to stove, test result was 25.69 ppb, and the source was removed from service, as it was never utilized.

Kitchen, room 104, next to steam kettles, test result was 43.76 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet, riser, hose and filler nozzle will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Middle School

60 samples tested, 10 exceeded 15 ppb (16%)

5 Hand Sinks, 3 Kitchen Dish Sinks, 1 Kitchen Pot Filler, 1 Kitchen Hand Sprayer

Sources found in rooms

Lavatory, room 314b, test result was 48.82 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Lavatory, room 314c, test result was 25.72 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Lavatory, room 305b, test result was 33.04 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Lavatory, room 305c, test result was 30.86 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Girls Physical Education Office, room 245b test result was 25.96 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen Sources

Kitchen, room 220, hand sprayer next to dish sink, test result was 35.01 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet, riser, hose and filler nozzle will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen, room 220, next to steam kettles, test result was 17.65 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet, riser, hose and filler nozzle will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen, room 220, dish sink, test result was 16.75 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen, room 220, dish sink, test result was 18.67 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen, room 220, dish sink, test result was 47.3 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

High School

115 samples tested, 17 exceeded 15 ppb (15%)

2 Drinking Fountains, 11 Hand Sinks, 1 Kitchen Hand Sink, 1 Kitchen Prep Sink, 2 Kitchen Dish Sinks

Drinking Fountains

Boy's Large Gymnasium Locker Room 162 fountain (one on right), test result was 16.31 and the source was taken out of service. It will be replaced, then the source will be retested. The Drinking Fountain to the left of this source did not have reportable levels and is considered safe for drinking.

Hallway Drinking Fountain outside room 206, test result was 19.85 ppb and the source was taken out of service. It will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Hand Sinks

Classroom 147, test result was 45.64 ppb, and the sink has been taken out of service. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Classroom 121, test result was 16.8 ppb, and the sink has been taken out of service. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Classroom 116a, test result was 67.76 ppb, and the sink has been taken out of service. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Boy's Lavatory, room 110, test result was 24.28 ppb, (far left sink) and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Boy's Lavatory, room 110, test result was 17.42 ppb, (far right sink) and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Science Laboratory Storage, room 216a, test result was 357.9 ppb, and the sink has been taken out of service. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested. This sink was not being used at all for a water source.

Women's Faculty Lavatory, room 229, test result was 26.96 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Girl's Lavatory, room 256, test result was 17.86 ppb, (sink on far left) and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Girl's Lavatory, room 256, test result was 18.39 ppb, (sink in middle) and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Boy's Lavatory, room 257, test result was 16.85 ppb, (1st on right) and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Boy's Lavatory, room 257, test result was 16.12 ppb, (middle) and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen Sources

Kitchen, room 135, Hand washing Sink, test result was 22.77 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen, room 135, Preparation Sink, test result was 85.76 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen, room 135, Dish Sink (wall of dock, sink on left) test result was 33.74 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Kitchen, room 135, Dish Sink (wall of dock, sink on right) test result was 84.49 ppb, and a non-drinking sticker has been placed. The Kitchen staff have been instructed not to use for cooking. The faucet will be replaced, then the source will be retested.

Once again, the time table for the remediation of each one of the identified sources will depend on the availability of parts, installation and the process of retesting. It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back in service and available for drinking and/or cooking, until the sources are fully mitigated and meet the New York State Department of Health standards.

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at any of the District building main offices, which are open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm or on our District Web site at www.depewschools.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact David Hess, Director of Facilities at 686-5088. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or the Erie County Department of Health at 961-6800. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 686-5105.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Rabey Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools