PASSAIC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sandra Montañez-Diodonet
Superintendent of Schools

We Are Passaic!
Forward! - ¡Pa'Lante!

June 30, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

Passaic Public Schools is committed to the safety, security, and welfare of our students and staff. Beginning in April 2022, all water sources in educational facilities and where water is expected to be used for consumption or food preparation, were tested for lead.

Approximately 1,600 water sources were tested throughout the Passaic Public Schools. No water outlets had a level greater than that established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (15 parts per billion (ppb)) as well as any actions taken to remediate the identified outlet(s).

In accordance with state regulations, we developed the Lead Sampling Plan. Information relating to the verified results and the plan will be published on our website, www.passaicschools.org.

Please find enclosed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document with information about Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Dr. Manuel F. Negron, Chief of Operations at (973) 470-5499.

For information on water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection's website at http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html.

Sincerely,

Sandra M. Diodonet
Superintendent of Schools

Enclosure

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Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water FAQ

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. 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. 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. 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; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines). Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be "lead free". The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." 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.

Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water

On July 13, 2016, the State Board of Education adopted regulations regarding testing for lead in drinking water in public schools throughout New Jersey. All districts are directed to develop a lead sampling plan that will govern the collection and analysis of drinking water samples. Samples must then be sent to a certified testing laboratory for analysis. The plans must be complete by July 13, 2017. Every district must make all test results available at the school facility and on the district's website. The regulations also require notification to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), as well as to parents, in any instances where positive results over the established level are reported. The notification should describe the steps taken to immediately end the use of each drinking water outlet where water quality exceeds the permissible lead level, as well as the measures taken to ensure that alternate drinking water has been made available to all students and staff.

For addition information, visit:

http://www.state.nj.us/education/lead/
http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf