

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street
SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY 07076

Margaret W. Hayes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: (908) 232-6161, ext. 3

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Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Community:

New requirements from the New Jersey Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency have guided our district's initiative to test drinking water for lead. Following the instructions given in technical guidance from these agencies, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District. Through this effort we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation water outlets. Of the 317 samples taken, all but 19 tested below the lead action level established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for lead in water 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]).

As reported below, all schools have implemented immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet that tested above the action level of 15 µg/l [ppb]. These measures include 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 has been posted. As a precaution, these signs have also been placed on all untested non-drinking and non-food preparation water outlets, such as in bathrooms and science labs.

Results of our Testing

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Field House Ice Machine ID # Field.IM.Hut	21.5	Immediately disconnected outlet. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Park Middle School Water Fountain in Nurse's Office ID # PK.DW.FI-1.Nurse	40.1	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Terrill Middle School Cafeteria Cold Cooking Outlet ID # TL.FP.FI-1.Kitch-1	55.4	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Terrill Middle School Cafeteria Cold Cooking Outlet ID # TL.FP.FI-1.Kitch-2	87.3	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Terrill Middle School Aux Kitchen Sink ID # TL.KC.FI-1.Kitch-6	138	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK-SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"

Brunner Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 124 ID # BR.DW.FI-1.124	88.4	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Brunner Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 125 ID # BR.DW.FI-1.125	782	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Brunner Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 127 ID # BR.DW.FI-1.127	428	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Brunner Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 128 ID # BR.DW.FI-1.128	170	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Brunner Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 129 ID # BR.DW.FI-1.129	153	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Coles Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 116 ID # CO.DW.FI-1.116	30.7	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Coles Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 118 ID # CO.DW.FI-1.118	23.8	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Coles Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 120 ID # CO.DW.FI-1.120	99.2	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Coles Elementary Sink in Nurse's Bathroom ID # CO.TS.FI-1.Nurse	16.9	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK-SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" Alternative water location available in office.
Coles Elementary Water Fountain Near Room 123 ID # CO.WC.FI-1.123-2	16.5	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
Coles Elementary Sink in Media Center Workroom ID # CO.MS.FI-1.124	21.8	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK-SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Evergreen Elementary Water Fountain Classroom 119 ID # EV.DW.FI-1.119	17.8	Immediately disconnected outlet. Alternative water locations available. Filter will be added and water will be retested before being placed back in service.
School One Sink in Office Copy Room ID # SO.CS.FI-1.127	79.8	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK-SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
School One Sink in Principal's Bathroom ID # SO.TS.FI-1.128	19.6	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK-SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"

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.

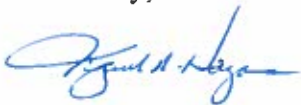
For More Information

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 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.spfk12.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Deborah Saridaki in the Business Office, 908-232-6161 ext.4013.

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.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. Should you have any questions regarding our water testing and remediation efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Margaret W. Hayes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools