July, 2022

Dear Linden Public School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Linden Public Schools tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations. The Linden Public School District will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the US Environmental Protection Agency established action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]) for lead. This includes 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 will be posted.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within Linden Public School district. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 305 samples taken, all but 27 tested below the lead action level of 15 ppb.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above 15 ppb for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Linden Public School district has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
School #5 SC5-DW-03 Pre K A	32.5	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #5 SC5-DW-11 Pre K B	18.4	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #5 SC5-DW-12 Room 108	21.8	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #5 SC5-WC-14 Outside Room 107	487	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #5 SC5-WC-17 Cafeteria	26.0	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking

School #1 SCI-WF-08	16.1	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
HS Academy Building AWC-06 Across from teachers Room	19.4	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
HS Academy Building AWC-15 IT Room	191	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
PDRC DC-KS-03 Slop Sink	36.9	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
School #10 SC10-KS-01 Kitchen Sink	20.3	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
School #2 SC2-WF-09 Outside of C-111	35.7	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
School #4 SC4-FP-20 Kitchen Sink	18.8	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
School #4 SC4-WF-24 Outside of Office Fountain	18.4	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
School #9 SC9-WF-09 Gym Locker Fountain	35.4	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
School #9 SC9-NS-28 Old Nurses room sink	20.6	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
School #9 SC0-WF-29 Outside of Cafeteria	38.1	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
McManus Middle School M-CT-04 Kitchen Coffee Maker	72.3	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking
McManus Middle School M-CT-05 Kitchen next to stove	111	“Signage” Do Not use for Drinking

McManus Middle School M-WF-09 Hall by 112 Fountain	19.3	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
McManus Middle School M-EC-12 Room 236 Sink	75.0	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #8 SC8-WC-09 Outside Room 108	45.5	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #8 SC8-WC-10 Outside Room 106	278	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #8 SC8-DW-11 Outside Room 111	87.2	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #8 SC8-WC-13 Outside Room 12	48.8	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #8 SC8-WC-22 Hallway Room 203	35.3	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #8 SC8-WC-23 Hallway Room 203	27.8	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking
School #8 SC8-WC-30 Hallway Room 304	21.1	"Signage" Do Not use for Drinking

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

In other words, it is the fetus that is at risk because developing fetuses receive lead from the mother's bones. Children and fetuses absorb more lead into their bodies than adults and are more susceptible to its effects on brain development; however, most children with elevated blood lead levels do not exhibit any symptoms, but effects may appear later in life.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like 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 household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of or lined with lead.

When water remains in contact with lead pipes or plumbing materials containing lead over time, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, may contain elevated levels of lead.

- Homes and buildings in New Jersey built before 1987 are more likely to have lead pipes and/or lead solder.
- Service lines, which may also contain lead, are the individual pipes that run from the well to a home or building. The property owner may also be the owner of the service line. Lead service lines are not typically found in non-community systems (e.g., school, office, restaurant, or other buildings on their own well).
- Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may also contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, that contain a maximum of 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Consumers should be aware of their current fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, cosmetics, imported spices and other food. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies like shooting ranges and fishing (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water may receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water When there are elevated levels of lead in your water, drinking water is likely to be a more important source of exposure.

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 3:30 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.linden.k12.nj.us.

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 Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact your health care provider.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marnie Hazelton
Superintendent of Schools