Warren Township Schools

Shining Brighter Every Day

April 24, 2017

Dear Warren Township School Community,

In December, I notified you of the initial results of the testing of our schools' drinking water for lead that took place on November 10 and 11, 2016. In addition to the mandated testing of drinking water sources, the Warren Township School District also tested sinks as an extra precaution.

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 the Warren Township School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested drinking water outlets as well as non-drinking sources of water such as bathroom sinks.

Of the 239 water sources tested, all but seven tested below the action level identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

In accordance with the NJDOE regulations, Warren Township Schools took steps to implement immediate remedial measures for any water outlet that tested above the action level. This included turning off the outlet unless it was determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK" sign was posted.

On March 25, 2017, we conducted follow-up testing on the sources of water at Angelo L. Tomaso and Woodland schools that tested high during the first round as well as on several sources of water at Central School that were previously unable to be tested due to low water pressure.

100% of the tests at Central School came back below the action level.

Detailed Results of our Testing

The table below identifies the **drinking** water outlets that originally tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead levels from November and March, and what actions will be taken moving forward.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb) November	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb) March	Original Remedial Action Taken	Follow-Up Actions Planned
Angelo L. Tomaso School Room 14 Water Fountain ID # 18-T-B-Rm14	22	4	Disconnected water service, replaced bubbler, took water fountain out of service, identified alternate sources of water for students	Return to service.
Angelo L. Tomaso School Room 6 Water Fountain ID # 48-T-SB-Rm6	30	42	Disconnected water service, took water fountain out of service, identified alternate sources of water for students	Remove water fountain. Continue to use alternate sources of water for students.

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

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb) November	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb) March	Original Remedial Action Taken	Follow-Up Actions Planned
Woodland School Boys Bathroom ID # 05-W-S-Bath1	110	70	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK."	None - Water source will remain as hand washing only.
Woodland School Boys Bathroom ID # 37-W-S-Bath6	87	24	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK."	None - Water source will remain as hand washing only.

The remaining above action level tests were in sinks at Warren Middle School. One sink was removed and will not be replaced. The other two sinks are being addressed through the installation of new faucets. Once that project is complete, another round of testing will take place. These locations are not intended to be used for drinking water and are labeled "DO NOT DRINK."

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 available 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.warrentboe.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Michael Pate at the Warren Township Buildings and Grounds Department, 908-753-5300, ext. 5600.

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 school or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Mingle

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools