



# Warren Township Schools

*Shining Brighter Every Day*

December 15, 2016

Dear Warren Township School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) regulations, the Warren Township School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead 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.

The results of the testing at the Board of Education office and the District's four elementary schools have been received. When the results from the Buildings and Grounds facility and Warren Middle School are received, this information will be updated and parents will be notified if any water outlet contains lead levels above the allowable action level.

Of the 185 water sources tests for which results have been received, all but four 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 has taken steps to implement immediate remedial measures for any water outlet that tested above the action level. 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" sign has been posted.

### Detailed 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 Warren Township School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations. Following remediation, all identified sites will be tested again.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in $\mu\text{g/l}$ (ppb)	Interim Remedial Action Taken	Follow-Up Actions Planned
Angelo L. Tomaso School Room 14 Water Fountain ID # 18-T-B-Rm14	22	Disconnected water service, replaced bubbler, took water fountain out of service, identified alternate sources of water for students	Conduct follow-up testing
Angelo L. Tomaso School Room 6 Water Fountain ID # 48-T-SB-Rm6	30	Disconnected water service, took water fountain out of service, identified alternate sources of water for students	Replace valve assembly, conduct follow-up testing

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

Sample Location	First Draw Result in $\mu\text{g/l}$ (ppb)	Interim Remedial Action Taken	Remedial Action
Woodland School Boys Bathroom ID # 05-W-S-Bath1	110	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK."	Will be conducting follow-up testing to confirm results to help determine additional remediation steps.
Woodland School Boys Bathroom ID # 37-W-S-Bath6	87	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK."	Will be conducting follow-up testing to confirm results to help determine additional remediation steps.

### 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](http://www.warrentboe.org) For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Tyler Tribelhorn at the Warren Township Buildings and Grounds, 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](http://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, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools