

Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

Updated in response to legislation effective as of June 1, 2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S) **Boonsboro Middle School**

ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On **6/8/22**, **27** lead water samples were collected from **Boonsboro Middle School**. Of these lead water samples, **18** had levels of lead exceeding the State's revised action level of 5 parts per billion (ppb) (*formerly 20 ppb; 5 ppb effective June 1, 2021*) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the sample(s) collected at **Boonsboro Middle School** were as follows:

- 9 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in kitchen adjacent to washroom
- 9 parts per billion (ppb) Drink fountain in hallway next to restroom
- 114 parts per billion (ppb) Drink fountain in girls locker room
- 10 parts per billion (ppb) Drink fountain next to boys locker room entrance
- 11 parts per billion (ppb) Drink fountain in hallway
- 6 parts per billion (ppb) Drink fountain outside room G-2
- 10 parts per billion (ppb) Drink fountain outside room G-4
- 8 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in faculty break room
- 19 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in faculty break room

. *Please note the outlets listed below with lead levels above the action level are non-consumption outlets. These outlets are posted with required signage indicating they are to be used for hand washing only.

No further remediation action is needed for these non-consumption outlets.

- 8 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in room F-2 island counter *
- 10 parts per billion (ppb) Sink on back wall of room F-2 *
- 17 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in pantry next to health room *
- 11 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in room C-13 right side island counter *
- 10 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in room C-13 left side island counter *
- 47 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in room E-13 left side island counter *
- 136 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in room E-13 right side island counter *
- 59 parts per billion (ppb) Sink on back wall of faculty work room *
- 31 parts per billion (ppb) Sink in room B-3 *

ACTION LEVEL (AL)

Effective June 1, 2021, the State's AL for lead in drinking water samples collected from outlets in school buildings has been lowered to 5 ppb. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation of drinking water outlets.

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. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. 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.

SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These sources include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN

The drink fountains were turned off immediately. Signs were placed at the other sinks stating no consumption due to how close they're located to other consumption outlets that had no lead detected. Non-consumption sinks not located near consumption outlets were labeled with required signage.

NEXT STEPS

The water fountains will be replaced with new units that have filtration and are equipped to fill water bottles. The sinks will have their faucets and other plumbing replaced. First draw samples will be taken and only when results show the level of lead is below the action level will they be placed back into service. All non-consumption sinks will remain operational and have permanent signage installed.

TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:

1. Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.

Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact **Jonathan Kerns, Facilities Project & Operations Manager at 301-766-2817**. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead. If you are concerned about exposure; contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.