CONSUMER NOTICE OF TAP WATER RESULTS

Contact us at (908) 479-6336 to obtain a translated copy of the public education materials or to request assistance in the appropriate language.

August 20, 2024

Dear Thomas Conley Elementary School,

As you may know, Thomas Conley Elementary School is also a public water system because we are responsible for providing you with water at this location and ensuring that the drinking water we provide meets state and federal standards. We collected a drinking water sample for lead in our building(s) at 10 locations on July 30, 2024. Below please find a chart illustrating the sampling locations and their results.

Sample Location	Result in ppb
Room 112 Kitchen Sink	2.03
Room 124 Nurses Sink	0.34
Center Hall Left Fountain	11.41
Center Hall Right Fountain	6.89
South Hall Left Fountain	<1.0
South Hall Right Fountain	<1.0
North Hall Left Fountain	1.76
North Hall Right Fountain	1.15
Room 140 Nursery Sink	2.08
Room 136 Preschool Sink	1.56

We are happy to report that the 90th percentile value for our water system is 6.89 parts per billion (ppb), below the lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. An action level exceedance is determined by measuring the highest concentration of lead in tap water that is exceeded by 10 percent of the sites sampled during a monitoring period (90th percentile value). If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the water system must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

What Are the 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.

What Are the Sources of Lead?

Although most lead exposure occurs when people eat paint chips and inhale dust, or from contaminated soil, EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Lead is rarely found in source water but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 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. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, 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, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet for about 15 to 30 seconds.

2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. It is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.

4. **Regularly remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

For More Information

Contact Kirby Hendershot at (908) 479-6336 or at khendershot@btschools.org. 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.

You can check our analytical results and monitoring requirements (i.e., the frequency of sampling and number of samples) on New Jersey Drinking Water Watch at www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/waterwatch.