



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MICHAEL CITTA

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear Members of the Toms River Regional Schools Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. The district recently began testing water within our schools in accordance with regulations adopted on July 13, 2016 by the State of New Jersey Board of Education. The regulations mandate testing for lead in drinking water in all public schools throughout New Jersey, reporting the results of testing, and any remedial actions required. This is in addition to the general municipal water testing that is completed regularly by the public water service providers.

As per these regulations, Toms River Regional Schools will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water, which is 15 ug/l or parts per billion (ppb). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location may remain on for non-drinking purposes. Accordingly, any drinking sources found to contain action levels will be immediately taken out of service.

Results of Testing

Per technical guidance developed by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each building within the Toms River Regional School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets.

At the ELC, Administration Building at 1144 Hooper Avenue, there were no samples of water that exceeded the allowable parts per billion. Therefore, there are no required remedial measures to be undertaken at this location.

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 our body. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and development 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 Waters

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 materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subjected 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 six. 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 results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, which can be viewed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.trschools.com. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Mark B. Wagner, Manager of Capital Projects (mbwagner@trschools.com), Dharm Bhatt, Facilities Engineer (dbhatt@trschools.com), Sam Pepe, Manager of Facilities (spepe@trschools.com) or call the Facilities Department at (732) 505-5633.

For more information about reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website, www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your local health care provider. If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,



Michael Citta
Superintendent of Schools