

September 17, 2021

Dear Paramus Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, the Paramus School District began testing our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the District has implemented immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). This included turning off the outlet, providing an alternate water source, and leaving the outlet off.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for our building. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 114 samples collected, a total of 18 sample locations exceeded the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table at the end of this memorandum identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead on a 1st-Draw sample, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

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. Federal regulations 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 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 **<https://www.paramus.k12.nj.us/Buildings-and-Grounds>**. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Steven Campbell, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, at (201) 261-7800 x3018.

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 this facility 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Adams", written in a cursive style.

Sean Adams
Superintendent of Schools

Table: Water Outlets with Greater than 15 µg/L for Lead

Sample Location	Results (µg/l or ppb)	Remedial Action
<u>High School</u>		
Sink in Faculty Room	17.6	All outlets in all sample locations identified in this table have been turned off. They will remain out of service until they all can be repaired or replaced.
Sink in Nurse's Office	53.5	
Ice Maker outside Trainer's Office	20.3	
Chiller outside Board Office	4,250	
Chiller in Board Office hallway	65.5	
<u>East Brook Middle School</u>		
Kitchen Sink, across from prep area & freezer	1,110	Each water outlet will then be sampled and put back in service after acceptable results for Lead are obtained.
Kitchen Sink, across from refrigerator	30.3	
Nurse's Office sink / Eye Wash	38.4	
Sink in Instrumental Music Room	43.1	
<u>Parkway Elementary School</u>		
PTA Kitchen Sink, left side	19.3	Alternate sources of drinking water are available nearby each water outlet.
Main Office Break Room	18.3	
<u>West Brook Middle School</u>		
Bubbler in hall by Faculty Women's Room	21.1	
Kitchen Prep Sink faucet	90.0	
Kitchen Prep Sink	23.7	
Sink in Storage Room, next to Room 30	45.5	
<u>Memorial Elementary School</u>		
Bubbler in Room 108	62.1	
<u>Ridge Ranch Elementary School</u>		
Bubbler in hallway across from Resource Room	35.7	
<u>Stoney Lane Elementary School</u>		
Faculty Room sink	38.0	