



Galloway Township Public Schools
"Where Children and Learning Come First"

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Superintendent of Schools

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May 24, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff of Smithville Elementary School:

As you may be aware, on July 13, 2016, the New Jersey Board of Education (NJBOE) adopted new regulations regarding testing for lead in potable water in all public schools throughout the State. Regulations indicated that mandated testing be performed within one year of the effective date. As our school district is committed to protecting the health and well-being of our students and staff, we employed a company to test all of our facilities as per the standards established by the NJBOE. This is in addition to the general water testing completed monthly by New Jersey American Water to the incoming potable water. Note that we regularly review the results of this testing.

The NJBOE requirements include water fountains, sinks with attached fountain drinking bubblers, all general use faucets, and utility sinks. In addition to testing required sources, we also tested classroom sinks and other possible sources of water consumption. We are directed as per the NJBOE regulations to implement immediate remedial measure for any potable water source with results greater than the action level of 15 ug/l [ppb](parts per billion). Depending upon the results of the sampling, remedial measures may include, but are not limited to water flushing, fixture and/or valve replacement, pipe removal and/or general cleaning. If it is determined that a source must remain on for non-drinking purposes, a sign is posted that states: "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HAND WASHING ONLY."

A table with testing results is provided below. Based upon technical guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), we completed and submitted a plumbing profile for each of our facilities. This included identification of all potable water and food preparation sources. Of the 439 samples taken district wide, all but 22 tested (excluding Reeds Road Elementary School, results pending) below the lead action level established by the NJDEP for lead in drinking water of 15 ug/l [ppb]. Please note that 97% of the samples taken throughout the district passed (again, this is excluding Reeds Road Elementary School, results pending). In your school, 98 samples were taken with all but 1 below the action level. This means that 99% passed.

Please note that 8 of the 22 action level samples were located at the Oceanville Facilities Building where no students are in attendance. Staff primarily drink from a filtered water system. The failed locations are associated with old fixtures and/or non-potable use locations that will be immediately remedied. All remediation is expected to be completed over the next several weeks.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlet that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Galloway Township Public Schools has taken to reduce the levels of lead at this location.

Smithville Room: Kitchen Sink ID # SK9	20.0	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
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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 test results is available in our District 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 3:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.gtps.k12.nj.us. For more information on reducing lead exposure in your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

The Galloway Township Public Schools takes the safety of students and staff very seriously. We are grateful that the water testing results indicated a limited number of relatively minor issues. With consistent flushing, proper maintenance, service to some existing units, and removal of a few older fixtures, we anticipate passing all future testing events. If you have any questions/concerns or need additional information, please contact me at 748-1250 ext. 1016 or giaquintoa@gtps.k12.nj.us. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Annette C. Giaquinto, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools