



SANDWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To the Students, Families, and Staff of the Sandwich School District,

Earlier this school year, the district was able to secure a spot in Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The program provided funding for schools to test plumbing fixtures for the presence of lead and copper. Lead and copper are not believed to be in high levels in our water source, but in the plumbing and fixtures in the buildings. This program focused on testing the actual taps in the schools used for drinking, cooking and medical uses. The High School, Oak Ridge School and Forestdale School were included in this program.

This program required the district to inventory all potential drinking water locations and sample the locations early in the morning. Each fixture required two samples, one "first draw" sample where the water had been sitting in the fixture overnight, and the second sample was taken after flushing the tap for 30 seconds. The samples were then send to a lab for analysis of copper and lead containments. The Massachusetts Action Levels for lead are .015 milligrams per liter, and 1.3 milligrams per liter for copper.

All water taps tested at the Oak Ridge School had lead results below the Massachusetts Action Levels. Two taps at the Forestdale school had results that exceeded the action level for lead on the "first draw" sample, but were below it on the flush sample. Those specific results are below. All taps at both schools tested below the action levels for copper.

Sample Location Description	Date Sampled	Sample Number	Lead Results (mg/L) "Fist Draw"	Action Taken
FD Room 115, classroom faucet	12/2/2016	010P	0.07404	Fixture disconnected from plumbing
FD Room 220, classroom faucet	12/2/2016	055P	0.01666	Fixture disconnected from plumbing

The administration takes these results very seriously and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. Both of the taps that tested positive for lead were removed from service on January 5, 2017, the day the results were received from MassDEP. Those faucets will be replaced, and the water from them will be resampled prior to putting them back into service. The High School samples were collected later in the month, and the results have not been received yet. Should any of those results come in above Mass DEP action levels, the district will take similar immediate action.

Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead exposure from drinking water at our schools.

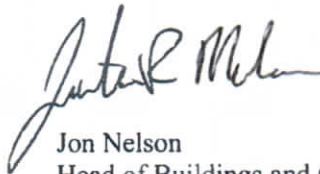
A Reminder: The water system in schools is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. If you have questions about lead in your home's water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.

If you have any questions on this information please contact Jon Nelson at jnelson@sandwich.k12.ma.us or 508-888-1054.

Sincerely,



Pamela A. Gould
Superintendent



Jon Nelson
Head of Buildings and Grounds

Useful Lead Links and Information:

MassDEP Overview of Lead in Massachusetts Drinking Water:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/overview-of-lead-inmassachusetts-drinking-water.html>

Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-inschool-drinking-water.html>

MassDEP Lead and Copper in Schools:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-copper-schools-lc.html>

EPA on Lead:

<https://www.epa.gov/lead>

How Does Lead Get into Drinking Water? "Most lead gets into drinking water after the water leaves the treatment plant and comes into contact with plumbing materials containing lead. These include lead pipe and lead solder (commonly used until 1986) as well as faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. The physical/chemical interaction that occurs between the water and plumbing is referred to as corrosion. The extent to which corrosion occurs contributes to the amount of lead that can be released into the drinking water. The critical issue is that even though your PWS may deliver water that meets all federal and state public health standards for lead, you may end up with too much lead in your drinking water because of the plumbing in your facility. The potential for lead to leach into water can increase the longer the water remains in contact with lead in plumbing. As a result, facilities with intermittent water use patterns, such as schools and day cares, may have elevated lead concentrations. Testing drinking water in schools and EEC facilities is important because children spend a significant portion of their day in these facilities and are likely to consume water while they are there. That is why testing water from your drinking water outlets for lead and copper is so important. Drinking water outlets are locations where water may be used for consumption, such as a drinking fountain, water faucet, or tap, or kitchen sinks." (From MassDEP mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/i-thru-z/lccaqa.pdf)