South Hunterdon Regional School District

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www.shrsd.org

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July 26, 2017

Dear Parents:

I hope this letter finds that your summer is going well. As a point of information, our district routinely tests our water system and the reason for this notice is to share that recent water sampling found a couple of locations at our high school with levels of lead or copper exceeding the recommended acceptable level.

We in turn, will work on a plan to remediate these locations to return to acceptable levels. Please take time to review the additional pages of information that follow this cover letter. Students and staff will not have any access to water for drinking that have unacceptable levels of lead or copper. We will continue to provide safe drinking water for all in each of our schools.

Sincerely,

Louis T. Muenker, D.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

LTM/bse

c: SHRSD BOE

Lambertville Public School – Wanda Quinones, Principal	(609) 397-0183	(609) 397-4607 Fax
South Hunterdon Regional High School – Jennifer Beresh MacKnight, Principal	(609) 397-2060	(609) 397-2366 Fax
Stockton Borough Elementary School – Geoff Hewitt, Principal	(609) 397-9023	(609) 397-2012 Fax
West Amwell Township Elementary School – David Miller, Principal	(609) 397-0819	(609) 397-4350 Fax

Consumer Notice of Tap Water Results

As you may know, South Hunterdon Regional High 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 to you meets state and federal standards. We collected drinking water samples for lead at this location on 5/26/17. Below please find a chart illustrating the sampling locations and their results.

Sample Location	Result in ppb
ART ROOM H108	2
AUDITORIUM SNACK	2
ART ROOM D101	7
NURSE'S OFFICE	7
SCIENCE A104	7
SCIENCE A106	8
SCIENCE H109	9
KITCHEN BY WINDOW	23
HOME EC C105	24
COMPUTER C102	40

The 90th percentile value for our water system is greater than the lead action level of 15 parts per billion.

What Does This Mean?
Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the taps used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile result). The action level is *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.* If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility 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.*

We are taking a number of steps to correct the problem. We will begin sampling for lead every 6 months so we can closely monitor the lead levels in our water system. In addition, we will initiate a Public Education campaign to ensure that people who drinking water in our facility know about the action level exceedance, understand the health effects of lead, the sources of lead and actions they can take to reduce exposure to leads in drinking water. We will also monitor our source water, initiate controls to reduce the corrosivity of our water (corrosive water can cause lead to leach from plumbing materials that contain lead) and [if appropriate] initiate lead service line replacement. We strongly urge you to take the steps below to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water.

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. 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.

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. Buildings built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. However, new buildings are also at risk: even legally "lead-free" plumbing may contain up to 8 percent lead. The most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures which can leach significant amounts of lead into the water, especially hot water.

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

Run your water to flush out lead. If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking,. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.

Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.

Do not boil water to remove lead.

For More Information

Call us at (609)397-2060. 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

South Hunterdon Regional High School found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

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.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure form certain hobbies.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like 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 household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains (service lines).

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. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

EPA estimates that up to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

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.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water

1. **Run the water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a 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 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.

2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula**. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.

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

4. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water**. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer.

5. **Get your child tested**. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned, you may wish to use bottled water for drinking and cooking.

For more information, call us at (609)397-2060. This notice is being sent to you **South Hunterdon Regional High School.,** New Jersey Public Water Supply (NJPWS) Identification Number NJ1026302.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead , call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact your health care provider.

Date Notification was distributed July 17, 2017