## NOTICE OF TAP WATER RESULTS LEAD AND COPPER COMPLIANCE SAMPLING PROGRAM

PWS Name: Alice A. Macomber

PWS ID: 4334004

Date: December 11, 2019

#### Dear Consumer:

As you may know, Alice A. Macomber School is also a public water system (PWS) responsible for providing drinking water that meets state and federal standards. This notice reports the lead and copper results from the samples collected at this facility on November 16, 2019.

A total of 10 were taken and the following table provides information on the tap location and the water sample result represented in milligrams per liter (mg/l):

Buildi	ng Sampling Location	Lead (mg/l)	This result is below the Lead Action Level	Copper (mg/l)	This result is below the Copper Action Level
1.	Room 23	ND	Х	.0307	X
2.	Water Cooler #1	ND	X	.12	X
3.	Teachers Rm Sink	ND	Х	.0087	X
4.	Kitchen Sink #4	ND	Х	.0185	X
5.	Water Cooler #2	ND	Х	.0867	X
6.	Water Cooler #3	ND	Х	.0918	X
7.	Water Cooler #4	ND	Х	.0599	X
8.	Water Cooler #5	ND	X	.085	X
9.	Water Cooler #6	ND	X	.0656	X
10.	Rm #3 Modular	ND	Х	.0183	Х

#### What Does This Mean?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) set the Lead Action Level¹ for lead in drinking water at 0.015 mg/l (or parts per million) and the Copper Action Level at 1.3 mg/l. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA and MassDEP also set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)² for lead of zero. The MCLG for copper is 1.3 mg/l.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our public water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. More information on lead in drinking water and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a>.

#### We recommend the following tips to keep any potential lead and copper out of the water you drink:

- Most importantly Flushing your water is the simplest way to reduce exposure to lead. When your water has been sitting for several hours, flush the tap until the water feels cold before use.
- Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking especially when making baby formula.
- Never boil water to remove lead or copper. Boiling water for an extended time may make the lead or copper more concentrated.

#### For more information on lead in drinking water visit:

- https://www.mass.gov/service-details/overview-of-lead-in-massachusetts-drinking-water
- https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-in-drinking-water

#### For more information on copper in drinking water visit:

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/copper-and-your-health

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

https://safewater.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/202346427

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MDPH Lead and Copper in Drinking Water FAQ and Quick Facts:

- https://www.mass.gov/service-details/sources-of-lead-besides-lead-paint
- Lead in Drinking Water FAQ (https://www.mass.gov/media/1571266/)
- Copper in Drinking Water FAQ (https://www.mass.gov/media/1571251/)

CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm.

USEPA: https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water

If you have any questions regarding lead or copper in drinking water or your lead or copper sampling results, please feel free to contact: Randy Clarkson, 508-400-6681.

Sincerely,

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - Drinking Water Program

Submitted - Signed

# (LCR) Lead And Copper Report

		- Light	Original Collection:				Analytical Lab:
	NTNC		Resubmit Reason:				
	PWS Class:		O/R/C:	0	Lab Sample ID:	D9K1706-01	0 1 100 140 100 A
	ā.	ORIES INC	Collection Date:	11/16/2019 06:55:00	Lab	16O	
L	Ç	MICROBAC LABORAT	Collected By:	Customer	ments:		
TACATAIN .amot/wio	R PRIMARY SCHOOL	Primary Lab Name: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	Routine/ Special: Collected By:	RS	Analysis Comments:		
	PWS ID #: 4334004 PWS Name: ALICE A MACOMBER PRIMARY SCHOOL	Primary Lab MA Cert #: M-CT008	Location	Room 23	ents:		
	PWS ID #: 4554004 PWS Name: ALIC	Primary Lab	Location ID	4334004	Sample Comments:		

Sample Comments:	••		7	Analysis Comments:	mments:	Б <u>а</u>	Lab Sample IU: D9K1706-01		The state of the s
Contaminant: LEAD COPPER		Result: ND 0.0307	UOM: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	Analysis Date: 11/26/2019 11/26/2019	Analytical Lab ID: M-CT008 M-CT008	): Analytical Lab: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	I Lab: RIES INC RIES INC
Location ID 4334004 Sample Comments	Location Water Cooler #1	#1	Rol	Routine/ Special: Colle RS Custo Analysis Comments:	al: Collected By: Customer omments:	Collection Date: 11/16/2019 06:56:00 Lab D9K	O/R/C: O Sample ID: 1706-02	Resubmit Reason:	Original Collection:
Contaminant: LEAD COPPER		Result: ND 0.12	UOM: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	Analysis Date: 11/26/2019 11/26/2019	Analytical Lab ID: M-CT008 N-CT008 N	): Analytical Lab: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	I Lab: RIES INC RIES INC
Location ID 4334004 Sample Comments:	Location Teachers Room Sinks:	om Sink	Ro	Routine/ Special: RS Analysis Com	cial: Collected By: Customer Comments:	fe: 06:5	O/R/C: 58:00 O Lab Sample ID: D9K1706-03	Resubmit Reason:	Original Collection:
Contaminant: LEAD COPPER		Result: ND 0.0087	UOM: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	Analysis Date: 11/26/2019 11/26/2019	Analytical Lab ID: M-CT008 M M-CT008 M	): MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	I Lab: RIES INC RIES INC
Location ID 4334004 Sample Comments	Location Kitchen Sink #4 S:	<b>7</b> #	Ro	Routine/ Special: RS Analysis Com	cial: Collected By: Customer Comments:	.e: 06:5	O/RVC: 59:00 O Lab Sample ID: D9K1706-04	Resubmit Reason:	Original Collection:
Contaminant:		Result:	UOM:	MDL:	Analytical Method:	Analysis Date:	Analytical Lab ID:	): Analytical Lab:	al Lab:
MDL = Method Detection Limit. UOM = Unit of Measurement. O/R/C = Original submittal or Resubmitted submittal or Confirmation sample.	ection Limit. surement. Ibmittal or Resu	ıbmitted submi	ittal or Confirr	nation samp	PWS ID #: PWS Name:		4334004 ALICE A MACOMBER PRIMARY SCHOOL	12/9/2019 4: Page	49:02 PM 1 of 3

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - Drinking Water Program (LCR) Lead And Copper Report

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LEAD	20	ND 0.0185	MG/L MG/L	0.001	EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	11/26/2019 11/26/2019	M-CT008 M-CT008	MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	RES INC RES INC
Location ID 4334004 Sample Comments:	Location Water Cooler #2 s:	ğ	Rou	Routine/ Special: Coll. RS Custo Analysis Comments:	I: Collected By: Customer mments:	Collection Date: 11/16/2019 07:01:00 Lab D9K	O/R/C: 07:00 O Lab Sample ID: D9K1706-05	Resubmit Reason:	Original Collection:
Contaminant: LEAD COPPER		Result: ND 0.0867	UOM: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	Analysis Date: 11/25/2019 11/25/2019	Analytical Lab ID: M-CT008 M-CT008 M	ID: Analytical Lab: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	Lab: RIES INC RIES INC
Location ID 4334004 Sample Comments:	Location Water Cooler #3 s:	£	Rou	Routine/ Special: Coll RS Custo Analysis Comments:	I: Collected By: Customer mments:	Collection Date: 11/16/2019 07:05:00 Lab D9K	O/R/C: 05:00 ○ Lab Sample ID: D9K1706-06	Resubmit Reason:	Original Collection:
Contaminant: LEAD COPPER		Result: ND 0.0918	UOM: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	Analysis Date: 11/25/2019 11/25/2019	Analytical Lab ID: M-CT008 N M-CT008 N	ID: Analytical Lab: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	L <b>ab:</b> RIES INC RIES INC
Location ID 4334004 Sample Comments:	Location Water Cooler #4 S:	<b>4</b> 4	Rou	Routine/ Special: Colle RS Custo Analysis Comments:	I: Collected By: Customer mments:	Collection Date: 11/16/2019 07:06:00 Lab D9K	O/R/C: 06:00 O Lab Sample ID: D9K1706-07	Resubmit Reason:	Original Collection:
Contaminant: LEAD COPPER		Result: ND 0.0599	UOIN: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	Analysis Date: 11/25/2019 11/25/2019	<b>Analytical Lab ID:</b> M-CT008 M-CT008	ID: Analytical Lab: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	I Lab: RIES INC RIES INC
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Contaminant: LEAD COPPER		Result: ND 0.085	UOM: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	Analysis Date: 11/25/2019 11/25/2019	Analytical Lab ID: M-CT008 N-CT008 N	ID: Analytical Lab: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	I Lab: RIES INC RIES INC
$\label{eq:model} MDL = Method Detection Limit. \\ UOM = Unit of Measurement. \\ O/R/C = Original submittal or Resubmitted submittal or Confirmation sample. \\$	ection Limit. surement. bmittal or Resub	mitted submitt	al or Confirm	ation sample	PWS ID #: PWS Name:	4334004 ALICE A MACOMBER PRIMARY SCHOOL	RIMARY SCHOO	12/9/2019 4:49:02 PM or Page 2 of 3	32 PM

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - Drinking Water Program

	Collected By:	Customer
Report	Routine/ Special: Collected By:	RS
Lead And Copper Report		oler #6
Lead An	Location	Water Cooler #6
	Location ID	4334004

Original Collection:

Resubmit Reason:

:08:00 O Lab Sample ID:

Analysis Comments:

Sample Comments:

Collection Date: 11/16/2019 07:08:00

Submitted - Signed

					D6	D9K1706-09		
Contaminant: LEAD COPPER	Result: ND 0.0656	UOM: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: EPA 200.8 EPA 200.8	Analysis Date: 11/25/2019 11/25/2019	Analytical Lab ID: M-CT008 M-CT008 M	ID: Analytical Lab: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	al Lab: DRIES INC DRIES INC
Location ID 4334004	Location ID Location Routine/ Spe 4334004 Room #3 Modular RS	Roi	ıtine/ Speci RS	Routine/ Special: Collected By: RS Customer	Collection Date: 11/16/2019 07:09:00	<b>O/R/C:</b> 00 O	Collection Date: O/R/C: Resubmit Reason: Original Collection: 11/16/2019 07:09:00 O	Original Collection:
Sample Comments:	ts:		Analysis C	Comments:	30 21	Lab Sample ID: D9K1706-10		
Contaminant: LEAD COPPER	Contaminant:         Result:         UOM:         MDL:           LEAD         ND         MG/L         0.00           COPPER         0.0183         MG/L         0.00	NOM: MG/L MG/L	MDL: 0.001 0.001	Analytical Method: Analysis Date: Analytical Lab ID: Analytical Lab: 1 EPA 200.8 11/25/2019 M-CT008 MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC 1 EPA 200.8 11/25/2019 M-CT008 MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	Analysis Date: 11/25/2019 11/25/2019	Analytical Lab ID: M-CT008 M M-CT008 M	ID: Analytical Lab: MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	al Lab: DRIES INC DRIES INC

Primary Lab Signature: Ron Warila

Date: 12/9/2019

EDEP Transaction ID: 1157947

Certified Signer User Name: MICROBAC\_DAY

MDL = Method Detection Limit. UOM = Unit of Measurement. O/R/C = Original submittal or Resubmitted submittal or Confirmation sample.

PWS ID #: 4334004
PWS Name: ALICE A MACOMBER PRIMARY SCHOOL

12/9/2019 4:49:02 PM Page 3 of 3 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH | BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

# Copper in Drinking Water FAQ for School and Childcare Facilities

This fact sheet answers frequently asked questions about copper and health, how copper may get into the drinking water at your school or childcare facility, and how children, teachers, and staff can avoid exposure. Copper is a naturally occurring and essential nutrient for good health in low levels. Exposure to high levels of copper can harm health. Parents of infants and young children, pregnant women, and people with Wilson's disease or liver disease should be aware of possible health effects following exposure to high levels of copper and should take precautions to minimize their exposure.

# HOW DOES COPPER GET INTO DRINKING WATER?

In Massachusetts, most drinking water sources from reservoirs and groundwater do not contain elevated levels of copper. When copper is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through pipes or plumbing in buildings with copper and brass parts. Service lines, which are the pipes that connect homes, schools, or other buildings to the water main, could have copper in them. Inside the school or facility, there may also be copper pipes or brass fixtures. Copper levels are highest when the water has been sitting in pipes for several hours. The amount of copper in the water decreases after the water is run for 1 minute. Hot water causes copper to dissolve and enter water faster.

# HOW DOES COPPER GET INTO SOMEONE'S BODY?

We regularly come into contact with small amounts of copper from breathing air, drinking water, and eating foods. Copper is not easily absorbed through the skin, but we may also come into contact with copper by touching copper, particles attached to copper, or copper compounds. Because copper is essential to good health in small "trace" amounts, everyone absorbs small amounts of copper every

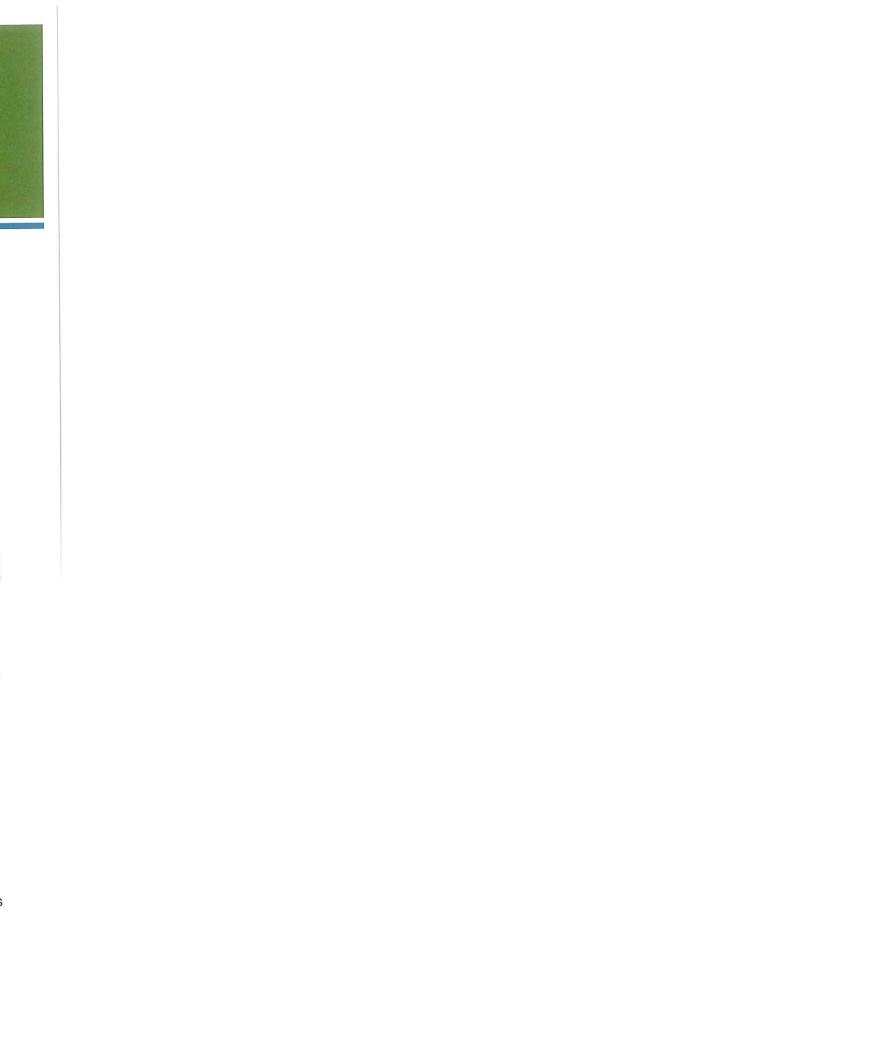
day. Our bodies have a natural mechanism to maintain the proper level of copper.

# WHAT IF COPPER LEVELS IN THE DRINKING WATER AT SCHOOL OR CHILDCARE ARE HIGH?

If the copper levels are higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level of 1,300 micrograms per liter (or 1,300 parts per billion), your school or childcare facility should work to determine the source. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) can provide assistance to schools and childcare facilities. Once a school is aware of a water copper exceedance, they should prevent access to any tap or fountain above the action level and provide an alternate source of water. There are a number of ways copper levels can be reduced, such as by replacing pipes and fixtures, reducing the corrosiveness of the water, or initiating a flushing program. Your school or childcare facility should keep parents, teachers, and staff updated as sampling progresses and informed of the results of the testing and their follow up actions.

#### **HOW DOES COPPER MAKE YOU SICK?**

Periodically drinking water that contains copper above the action level does not guarantee it will harm someone's health. Consuming levels of copper above the action level may cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. Some infants and children, people with liver disease, and people with Wilson's disease have trouble eliminating copper from their bodies and are more likely to experience negative health effects, such as kidney and liver damage.



# SHOULD I OR MY CHILD HAVE BLOOD OR URINE TESTING DONE?

Medical screening is not generally recommended if copper is detected in drinking water at a school or EEC. Copper is normally found in all tissues of the body. Testing of blood, urine, feces, hair, and/or nails for copper can only show if a person has been exposed to higher than normal levels of copper. It cannot be used to predict the amount of the exposure, how long the exposure occurred, or potential health effects. Specific health questions about exposure to copper should be directed to your doctor or other health care provider.

# HOW CAN I REDUCE COPPER EXPOSURE AT SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES?

If you are a student, teacher or staff member, you can help reduce your exposure if copper levels are elevated in tap water.

#### Easy things to do are:

- Obey signs identifying water outlets that are for handwashing only or shouldn't be used at all.
- Let the water run for 1 minute before you drink from a fountain or faucet.
- Use cold water for drinking and cooking. If you want hot water, run cold water from the faucet and warm it in the microwave or on the stove.
- When mixing powdered baby formula with tap water, always use cold water and do not use hot water. Simply warm formula to serve. Bottled or filtered water should be

used when mixing baby formula if copper levels are known to be elevated in tap water. Filters should be NSF-certified to remove copper.

#### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

#### For additional health information contact:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health Phone: 617-624-5757 | Fax: 617-624-5777 | TTY: 617-624-5286 www.mass.gov/dph/environmental health

# For additional drinking water information contact:

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Drinking Water Program
617-292-5770
Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us
<a href="http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-other-contaminants-in-drinking-water.html#19">http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-other-contaminants-in-drinking-water.html#19</a> (and see sections on "Copper" and "Lead and Copper")

#### NOTE FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS:

This FAQ does not fulfill the notification requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule 310 CMR 22.06B. Public Water Systems should contact MassDEP for specific Lead and Copper Rule requirements.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Health
250 Washington Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: 617-624-5757 | Fax: 617-624-5777 | TTY: 617-624-5286
www.mass.gov/dph/environmental health

OCTOBER 2016

CERTIFIED OPERATOR: RANDALL CLARKSON 508-400-6681



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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# Lead in Drinking Water for Schools and Childcare Facilities

This fact sheet provides information on lead and health, how lead may get into the drinking water at your school or childcare facility, and how children, teachers, and staff can avoid exposure.

Lead can be found in all parts of the environment. Although lead is found in nature, most exposure comes from human activities or use. Lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust are the primary sources of exposure for children. Infants, young children, and developing fetuses are most sensitive to the effects of lead because their body systems are not fully developed. Precautions should be taken to minimize lead exposure.

# HOW DOES LEAD GET INTO DRINKING WATER?

In Massachusetts, most drinking water sources from reservoirs and groundwater are lead free. When lead is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through lead pipes or plumbing in buildings with lead parts or solder. Service lines, which are the pipes that connect homes, schools, or other buildings to the water main, could have lead in them. Inside the school or facility, there may also be lead pipes, pipes connected with lead solder, or brass faucets or fittings containing lead. Lead levels are highest when the water has been sitting in lead pipes for several hours. Using hot water can draw lead out of pipes, solder, or taps/fixtures, releasing it into the water.

# HOW DOES LEAD GET INTO SOMEONE'S BODY?

Lead is present in typically low levels in a variety of different sources, such as food, drinking water, soil, dust, and air. Individuals are exposed to lead from eating food, drinking water, accidentally swallowing soil and dust, and from breathing air that contains

lead. Other less common sources of lead include some handmade pottery and imported cookware, home remedies, toys, candy, jewelry, and canned food. Lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust are the primary sources of exposure for children, but drinking water can be an important contributing source to overall exposure.

Since everyone is exposed to small amounts of lead in their daily life, it is not uncommon for a low level of lead to be present in someone's body.

# IS IT SAFE TO BATHE IN WATER WITH ELEVATED LEVELS OF LEAD?

Yes. Lead is not easily absorbed through the skin. It is not a problem to wash hands, bathe, or shower in water containing lead.

# WHAT IF LEAD LEVELS IN THE DRINKING WATER AT SCHOOL OR CHILDCARE FACILITIES ARE HIGH?

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection provides the following recommendations to schools and childcare facilities. The recommendations apply to taps/fixtures used for drinking, food preparation, and medical use:

- If the lead levels are 15 parts per billion (ppb) or higher, your school or childcare facility should prevent access to taps/fixtures above 15 ppb and provide an alternate source of water.
- If lead is detected below 15 ppb, the school or childcare facility should continue to evaluate and remediate taps/fixtures until the lowest possible concentration of lead is achieved.
- Taps/fixtures with higher concentrations serving infants, young children, and pregnant women should be remediated first.

Note: At taps/fixtures that should <u>not</u> be used for drinking, food preparation, or medical use, signs should be posted advising against their use.

MassDEP can provide technical assistance to schools and childcare facilities on testing and follow-up measures. There are a number of ways lead levels can be reduced in school drinking water, such as replacing pipes and taps/fixtures, installing filters, or initiating a flushing program. Schools and childcare facilities should have a plan to address lead in drinking water and keep parents, teachers, staff, and MassDEP informed of testing, results, and follow-up actions.

Children's exposure to lead in drinking water at school is only a small part of their overall potential exposure. Children typically only drink water in schools and childcare facilities for a portion of the day. While it is unlikely that lead in drinking water at schools or childcare facilities would cause staff or children to have significantly elevated blood lead levels, it can contribute to overall exposure. Risk will vary, however, depending on the individual, the circumstances, and the amount of water consumed. For example, infants who drink formula prepared with lead-contaminated water may be at a higher risk because of the large volume of water they consume relative to their body size.

# CAN WATER WITH ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS BE USED FOR WASHING OUT CUTS?

Yes. A brief exposure to elevated levels of lead in water while rinsing a cut does not pose any hazard to health.

#### **HOW DOES LEAD MAKE YOU SICK?**

Lead detected above 15 ppb does not necessarily mean a child will have elevated levels of lead in their blood. The amount of lead in a child's body depends on several factors, such as their age, nutritional status, and the various sources of lead in their environment.

Lead can affect every organ system in the body, including the nervous system, kidneys, and cardiovascular system. The developing brains of infants, young children, and developing fetuses are

at greatest risk. An exposure to lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a big effect on an infant, young child, and developing fetus. Most children who have lead poisoning or high levels of lead exposure do not look or act sick. The only way to confirm lead poisoning is through a blood lead test. It is important to reduce lead exposure as much as possible, particularly for infants, young children, and pregnant women.

## WHAT IF I'M PREGNANT OR PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT?

Lead can pass from a mother to her developing fetus. Dust from old lead-based paint (such as during renovation) can be an important source of exposure for pregnant women. While drinking water is not usually the most significant source of lead exposure leading to elevated blood lead levels, it can be an important contributing source to overall exposure. Pregnant women should be aware of potential exposure to lead from the home and workplace, from the use of traditional home remedies, imported cosmetics, or lead-glazed pottery from cooking or storing food. Additionally, a craving to eat or mouth nonfood substances, such as soil or jewelry, can expose a person to lead. Talk to your doctor or other health care provider to discuss your lead exposure risks and whether you should be tested.

# SHOULD I OR MY CHILD HAVE BLOOD TESTING DONE?

Testing all children following the detection of lead in a school's or a childcare facility's drinking water is not recommended. It is unlikely that lead in drinking water at schools or childcare facilities would cause staff or children to have elevated blood lead levels. The most important thing to do is to identify and remove suspected sources of lead exposure.

Blood tests are commonly used to screen children for lead poisoning. In Massachusetts, young children must have their blood lead levels tested at age 9-12 months, and again at ages 2 and 3, and also sometimes at age 4, depending on where they live. This scheduled approach to blood lead testing helps identify lead poisoned children and eliminate sources of lead exposure. While we do not recommend testing all children at schools or

childcare facilities where elevated levels of lead in drinking water have been identified, if your child has never been screened or you have specific health concerns about your child, you should discuss this with your child's doctor or other health care provider.

# HOW CAN I REDUCE LEAD EXPOSURE AT SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES?

If you are a student, teacher, or staff member, you can help reduce your exposure if lead levels are elevated in tap water.

#### Easy things to do are:

- Obey signs identifying water taps/fixtures that are for handwashing only or shouldn't be used at all.
- Let the water run for 1 minute before you drink from a tap/fixture.
- Use cold water for drinking and cooking. If you want hot water, run cold water from the tap/fixture and warm it in the microwave or on the stove.
- When mixing powdered baby formula with tap water, always use cold water. Simply warm formula to serve. Use bottled or filtered water when mixing baby formula if you know lead levels in tap water are elevated. Filters should be certified to NSF International/ANSI standards for the removal of lead below 1ppb (www.nsf.org/services/by-industry/waterwastewater/ or 1-877-867-3435). See MassDEP's tips on point-of-use filters at https://www.mass.gov/doc/tips-onoperation-maintenance-for-point-of-usedevices.

#### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

#### For health information contact:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health Phone: 617-624-5757 | Fax: 617-624-5777 | TTY: 617-624-5286 https://www.mass.gov/orgs/bureau-ofenvironmental-health

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program 1-800-532-9571 <a href="https://www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program">https://www.mass.gov/orgs/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program</a>

## For additional drinking water information contact:

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Drinking Water Program
617-292-5770
Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us
<a href="https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water">https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water</a>
(See also "Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water")

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS: This FAQ does not fulfill the notification or education requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule 310 CMR 22.06B. Public Water Systems should contact MassDEP for specific Lead and Copper Rule requirements of public water systems to notify consumers of elevated lead results.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health 250 Washington Street, 7th Floor Boston, MA 02108 Phone: 617-624-5777 LTTY: 61

Phone: 617-624-5757 | Fax: 617-624-5777 | TTY: 617-624-5286 https://www.mass.gov/orgs/bureau-of-environmental-health

May 2019

CERTIFIED OPERATOR: RANDALL CLARKSON 508-400-6681





