

Copper: The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)¹ is 1.3 mg/l. When copper is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through service line or internal pipes or plumbing in buildings with copper and brass parts. *Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.*

Lead: The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for lead is zero. When lead is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through service lines or internal pipes or plumbing in buildings with lead pipes or plumbing with lead solder or brass. *Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.* Because lead may pose serious health risks, both the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that “there is no known safe level of lead in a child’s blood”².

A Reminder: The water system at the school 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. Plumbing systems also contain copper. If you have questions about lead or copper 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 Randy Clarkson at 508-400-6681.

Sincerely,



Director of Maintenance

Modified from EPA’s “3T’s for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools: Revised Technical Guidance”

¹ 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. The Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

² <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>
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