

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Shortly after August 15, 2016, the Butler Area School District received test results which found elevated levels of lead in drinking water tap samples. 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.***

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

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. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil. Drinking water is also a possible source of lead exposure. Most sources of drinking water have no lead or very low levels of lead. Most lead gets into drinking water after the water leaves the local well or treatment plants and comes into contact with plumbing materials containing lead. These include lead pipes, lead solder (commonly used until 1986), as well as faucets, valves, and other components made of brass.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Water

- 1. Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
- 2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- 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.
- 5. Test your water for lead.** If you think you may have elevated lead levels in your home drinking water, have it tested. Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) for more information.

What Happened? What is being done?

Shortly after August 15, 2016, the District received the test results which indicated both lead and copper levels exceeding acceptable water standards. The lead levels found in the District's water supply were as follows:

Test Date: August 15, 2016

Test Date: August 29, 2016

Sample No. 1 13 Parts per billion
 Sample No. 2 45 Parts per billion
 Sample No. 3 25 Parts per billion
 Sample No. 4 39 Parts per billion
 Sample No. 5 35 Parts per billion

Sample No. 1 55 Parts per billion
 Sample No. 2 18 Parts per billion
 Sample No. 3 34 Parts per billion
 Sample No. 4 32 Parts per billion
 Sample No. 5 41 Parts per billion

Lead levels in excess of 15 parts per billion are unacceptable and require the District to develop and implement an "Action Plan." In response to the test results, the District Maintenance Director contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to review its obligations. On September 27, 2017, the DEP, via email from Mr. Thomas Blair, outlined the District's responsibilities under the Pennsylvania Lead and Copper Rules (LCR). The District's Maintenance Director has been working with the DEP in an effort to appropriately address the water quality issues identified in the testing and the District's responsibilities as outlined in Mr. Blair's email. This process is lengthy in nature and the District will not be able to resume use of the well water for drinking or washing for an indefinite period of time.

Please carefully read the attached "Important information about Lead in Your Drinking Water" notification.



The District has taken the steps listed below in order to ensure that the students, staff, parents and visitors to the School do not drink or consume well water. These steps include:

1. All drinking fountains have been shut-off and "bagged" in the Summit Elementary School.
2. Bottled water will continue to be provided throughout the building.
3. Hand sanitizer will be used in the bathroom.
4. All students, staff and visitors will be informed of the water quality issues and expressly told not to drink or consume in any form Summit Elementary School's well water, only bottled water.
5. Signs indicating that well water must not be consumed will be posted throughout the School.
6. Well water will only be used in toilets and urinals.

For More Information:

Call us at 814-332-6329 or (if applicable) visit our website at www.dep.pa.gov. 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, or contact your health care provider.

PWS ID#: 5100445

Date January 19, 2017