A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

Haldane Elementary/Middle School

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

05/10/2023

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is first draw testing of school drinking water for lead?

The "on-again, off-again" nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This "first draw" sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What are the results of the first draw testing?

Haldane Elementary/Middle School - Haldane Central School District				
Date	**Sample ID**	**Floor**	**Location**	**Lead Level (ppb)**
5/25/23	05-Garden-DW-P-7(2)	Exterior	Garden, Hose by Wash Sink	5.33
4/26/2023	01-B6-CF-P-06	0	Basement, Room B6; Bathroom Sink	8.20
4/26/2023	02-118-CF-P-08	1	1st floor, Classroom 118, Sink	5.48
4/26/2023	02-113-CF-P-09	1	1st floor, Classroom 113, Sink	6.99
4/26/2023	02-101-CF-P-14	1	1st Floor, Classroom 101, classroom storage room; Sink	5.68
4/26/2023	03-219-CF-P-15	2	2nd floor, classroom 219, Sink	5.43
4/26/2023	03-216-CF-P-16	2	2nd floor, classroom 216, Sink	36.3
4/26/2023	05-Garden-DW-P-5	Ext	Garden, Hose by SW Wash Sink, Water	117
4/26/2023	05-Garden-DW-P-6*	Ext	Garden, Hose by NE Wash Sink, Water	41.5
4/26/2023	05-Garden-DW-P-7*	Ext	Garden, Hose by Wash Sink, Water	21.6
5/25/2023	05-Garden-DW-P-7 (2)	Ext	Garden, Hose by Wash Sink, Water	5.33

**resampling on 5/25/23 results in levels below 5 PPB.*

Floors: 0 = Basement, 1 – First Floor, 2 – 2nd floor, Ext – Exterior Area

What is being done in response to the results?

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) were removed from service, unless an outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

The District will institute engineering controls in the form of a routine flushing program to remove any stagnant water which could increase the amount of lead within the water. This flushing program will remain in place until additional testing indicates it is no longer necessary.

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building's plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors; for example, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results, contact *Mike Twardy at (845) 265-9254, ext 170*, or go to our school website: *www.haldaneschool.org*

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html

For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, go to: http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means": http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/ (available in ten languages).

A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

Haldane High School

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

06/13/2023

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is first draw testing of school drinking water for lead?

The "on-again, off-again" nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This "first draw" sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What are the results of the first draw testing?

Haldane High School - Haldane Central School District				
Date	**Sample ID**	**Floor**	**Location**	**Lead Level (ppb)**
4/25/2023	02-217-BF-P1	2	2nd Floor, Classroom Sink 1 (Lab Prep-right)	47.9
4/25/2023	02-214-CF-P3	2	2nd Floor, Classroom Sink 3 (Lab Prep)	101
4/25/2023	02-Offices-CF-P4	2	2nd Floor, Mabel Merrit Blg Class Sink 4 (top of stairs)	106

What is being done in response to the results?

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) were removed from service, unless an outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

The District will institute engineering controls in the form of a routine flushing program to remove any stagnant water which could increase the amount of lead within the water. This flushing program will remain in place until additional testing indicates it is no longer necessary.

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building's plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors; for example, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results, contact *Mike Twardy at (845) 265-9254, ext 170,* or go to our school website: *www.haldaneschool.org*

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html

For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, go to:
http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":
http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/ (available in ten languages).