



AAPS Testing for Lead in Drinking Water Program Information

Superintendent's Communication

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

We are committed to achieving the lowest possible levels of lead in drinking water in the AAPS, and take very seriously the risks associated with lead exposure, particularly with our youngest children.

We have voluntarily tested water annually in all AAPS schools since spring, 2016, and we have addressed any and all issues of *parts per billion* measures of >15ppb, established as an action level by the EPA and MDEQ. Testing for lead in drinking water is scheduled for October/November, 2018.

Testing in AAPS schools is focused on high-priority locations, including drinking fountains, kitchen sinks, and classroom water fixtures. We have increased the number of locations tested at each campus during this time; water testing is conducted by Arch Environmental Group, professional partners to AAPS on environmental issues. Arch Environmental Group fulfills a similar service for 45 other school districts in Michigan.

The AAPS protocol for addressing the issue, when lead levels read at >15ppb, includes flushing & retesting at the location, replacing water fixtures, and, in some cases, replacing water pipes behind the fixture, which is the protocol indicated by water quality experts. Per the AAPS protocol, we have addressed all locations with measures >15ppb.

In addition, we are currently working to replace older water fixtures in schools, installing water bottle filling stations.

Proposed next steps:

- 1) **Install water bottle filling stations** in all our AAPS schools, a project which can be accomplished fairly quickly, and encourage students and staff to use these locations to obtain water for consumption.
- 2) **Continue the flushing of all water systems following school breaks**, such as summer, Thanksgiving, winter break, and spring break.
- 3) With the Fall, 2018 water testing, **increase the number of locations tested** in each school, particularly in all elementary school locations.

4) Implement the **protocol of flushing & retesting be implemented at >10ppb** across the district, increasing the mitigate effort beyond the >15ppb. This step will place the AAPS ahead of the 2025 EPA adjustment to >12ppb.

5) **Install signage in low priority locations**, such as custodial closets, etc. to remind everyone that water in these locations is not for consumption.

6) Add **Testing for Lead Drinking Water Program Information** as an **Annual Report to the Board of Education** (as was done in 2016), to ensure the Board and community receive this information updated directly each year.

In the AAPS, we are committed to the work of preventing and addressing levels of lead in school drinking water, and look forward to maintaining our position as a leading school district in the state on this very critical issue of student health and safety.