

Quinton Township School District

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June 6, 2017

Dear Quinton Township School Community,

The New Jersey Department of Education required all school districts in the State of New Jersey to conduct testing of water for lead, analyze the data and follow through with a corrective action plan no later than July 13, 2017. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education's regulations, Quinton Township School contracted with TTI Environmental Inc. to test our school's drinking water for lead.

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for Quinton Township School. Through this effort, we identified and tested *all* drinking water and food preparation outlets, which took place on May 25, 2017.

The results were received and reviewed this morning. Of the twenty-one samples taken, all but two tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in the water (15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ [ppb]). The two areas identified were from sinks. One of the sinks is located in the teacher's room (First Draw: 18.3 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ [ppb]) and the other is located in the cafeteria (First Draw: 262 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ [ppb]). The sink identified in the cafeteria area is *not used* for food preparation. *Please know that there were no affected water fountains in the building.*

In accordance with the Department of Education's regulations, Quinton Township School will implement immediate remedial measures for the two identified water outlets (sinks), which have a result greater than the action level of 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ (parts per billion [ppb]). The district maintenance supervisor has shut down and disassembled the affected sinks, which will undergo remediation and further testing. The results of the additional testing will be shared with you once these actions have been completed.

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at <http://quinton.nj.schoolwebpages.com>. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Heather Mayhew at Quinton Township School, 856-935-1094.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Delia

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Superintendent of Schools

FACTS ABOUT LEAD

Health Effects of Lead

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age. 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. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.