A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, FACULTY and STAFF of LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL
Lead Testing of School Drinking Water
August 29, 2024

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 (NYS DOH) 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), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter (µg/L), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead. The level for past testing was previously set at 15 parts per billion (ppb).

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?

The results of the first draw testing of every outlet that could be used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking are posted on the district's website (link under Additional Resources section of this document).

The outlets that tested at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb) are below.

Building	Sample #	Location	Fixture/Outlet Type	Laboratory Analysis (in ppb)
LHS	104.1-2	Kitchen Single Bay Sink	Sink	17.9
LHS	104.1-4	Kitchen Dishwash 3-Bay Sink, Right	Sink	11
LHS	104.1-5	Kitchen Single Middle Island Sink	Sink	13.2
LHS	104.1-12	Dish Room Single Sink	Sink	17.3
LHS	104.1-13A	Faculty Dining Room South Wall	Drinking Fountain	15.4
LHS	104.1-36	Boys Pool Locker Room East Wall	Sink	33.5
LHS	104.1-38	Boys Vestibule Lav	Sink	6.4

LHS	104.1-40	Technology Room 167 Center	Sink	15.3
LHS	104.1-41	Technology Room 167 Right	Sink	11.5
LHS	104.1-43	Technology Room 166 Center	Sink	7.2
LHS	104.1-52	Boys Field House Locker Room 1 Left	Sink	6.5
LHS	104.1-101	Across From Room 147	Drinking Fountain	6
LHS	104.1-102	Room 147 Left Single Sink	Sink	20.5
LHS	104.1-103	Room 147 Right Double Sink	Sink	7.4
LHS	104.1-108	Women's Faculty Lav by Room 143 Left Sink	Sink	7.1
LHS	104.1-110	Men's Faculty Lav by Room 143 Left Sink	Sink	6.3
LHS	104.1-111	Credit Union Room 140	Sink	27.6
LHS	104.1-114	Girls G7 Lav Left	Sink	5.1
LHS	104.1-117	Room 141 Left	Sink	8.6
LHS	104.1-119	Room 138A	Sink	20.4
LHS	104.1-120	Room 136A	Sink	7.5
LHS	104.1-123	Fitness Center/Pool Hallway	Drinking Fountain	17
LHS	104.1-124	Girls Pool Locker Room	Bubbler	20.7
LHS	104.1-125	Girls Pool Locker Room	Sink	10.8
LHS	104.1-136	Principal’s Office Lav	Sink	9
LHS	104.1-144	G3 Lav Left Sink	Sink	5.5
LHS	104.1-149	B3 Lav Right Sink	Sink	5.3
LHS	104.1-150	Room 111A (Office Area)	Sink	6
LHS	104.1-155	Prep Room Between S11/S12	Sink	21.1
LHS	104.1-156	Outside Room 113	Drinking Fountain	15.1
LHS	104.1-161	Room 128A	Sink	9.2
LHS	104.1-164	G5 Lav Left Sink	Sink	17.7
LHS	104.1-167	Room 128 Left	Sink	14.7
LHS	104.1-168	Room 128 Right	Sink	12.4

LHS	104.1-169	Room 130A	Sink	6.9
LHS	104.1-171	Room 129	Sink	29.8
LHS	104.1-172	Room 131A Sink by Window	Sink	12.2
LHS	104.1-173	Room 130 Left Wall Left Sink	Sink	73
LHS	104.1-174	Room 130 Left Wall Center Sink	Sink	14.7
LHS	104.1-175	Room 130 Left Wall Right Sink	Sink	11.3
LHS	104.1-176	Room 130 Back Wall Left Sink	Sink	56
LHS	104.1-177	Room 130 Back Wall Middle Sink	Sink	20.3
LHS	104.1-178	Room 130 Back Wall Right Sink	Sink	16.2
LHS	104.1-188	Women's Lav by 200.10 Sink by Window	Sink	44.7
LHS	104.1-189	Women's Lav by 200.10 2nd Sink From Left	Sink	15.1
LHS	104.1-190	Women's Lav by 200.10 3rd Sink From Left	Sink	5.2
LHS	104.1-225	Room 216	Sink	11.3
LHS	104.1-228	Across From Rifle Range in Basement	Sink	11.7
LHS	104.1-229	Across From Rifle Range in Basement	Drinking Fountain	9.2
LHS	104.1-230	Basement Laundry Room	Sink	9.4
LHS	104.1-231	Basement Staff Lav	Sink	5.7

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. Many of these outlets were already out of service or marked for handwashing only based on previous testing. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

Certain outlets may receive remediation measures (filters, replacement of nozzles and/or hardware, replacement of fountain equipment) and will be tested prior to being put back into service.

A remediation plan is posted on the district's website (link under Additional Resources section of this document) and will be updated frequently. Any future testing reports will also be posted to the website.

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 exposure 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, including but not limited to, 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 and sampling results**,** go to our school website: https://www.lancasterschools.org/departments/facilities/2024-water-testing

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:
https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

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

https://www3.erie.gov/envhealth/sites/www3.erie.gov.envhealth/files/2022-10/leadwaterfactsheet.pdf

For information about NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 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/ (English)

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education_materials/index.htm (available in ten languages).