

# SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"*

15 Fredrick Boulevard

Woolwich Township, NJ 08085

Phone: 856-241-1552 Fax: 856-467-7041

[www.swedesboro-woolwich.com](http://www.swedesboro-woolwich.com)

**Dr. Kristin M. Kellogg**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Korey Jeffries**  
Business Administrator

August 8, 2024

RE: Swedesboro School District – Lead in Water Testing

Dear Community,

The administration and board of education of the Swedesboro School District is committed to fulfilling our mission, which in part states: "to develop physically and emotionally healthy students who excel in an ever-changing world..." To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, we tested Swedesboro Schools water for Lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Swedesboro School District will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 ug/l, parts per billion (ppb).

### Results of our Initial Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we completed a plumbing profile of the Schools. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. **Of the 116 samples taken, 114 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 ug/l ppb) and 2 tested above the lead action level.**

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 ug/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action we have take to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location & ID #	First Draw Result in ug/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
Clifford School - Kitchen Pot Filler (3A-MCS)	23.1 ppb	Disconnected outlets; Replaced faucet
Hill School – Sink in Room 225 (17-WHS)	41.9 ppb	
Waiting on Harker School Results		
Statton School – All Acceptable		

### 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.

### 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 1987, 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

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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.

### For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our district office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm. It is also available on our website at [www.swedesboro-woolwich.org](http://www.swedesboro-woolwich.org). For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Joshua Stow, Director of Buildings & Grounds, at 856-241-1552 ext 1022.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://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.

Your child's and our employees' health and safety is the Swedesboro School Districts highest priority. "Partnerships with families and the community" to provide "a secure, challenging and energizing environment" also is integral to the Swedesboro Schools mission. We value your partnership and are happy to address any questions or concerns you may have about our lead testing program.

Sincerely,

  
Superintendent of Schools