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 (N Y S D O H) 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 N Y S D O H 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: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-2
Location: Kitchen Sink Bay Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 17.9

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-4
Location: Kitchen Dishwash 3-bay Sink, Right
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 11

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-5
Location: Kitchen Single Middle Island Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 13.2

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-12

Location: Dish Room Single Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 17.3

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-13A
Location: Faculty Dining Room South Wall
Fixture/Outlet Type: Drinking Fountain
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 15.4

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-36
Location: Boys Pool Locker Room East Wall
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 33.5

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-38
Location: Boys Vestibule Lavatory
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 6.4

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-40
Location: Technology Room 167 Center
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 15.3

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-41
Location: Technology Room 167 Right
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 11.5

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-43
Location: Technology Room 166 Center
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 7.2

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-52
Location: Boys Field House Locker Room 1 Left
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 6.5

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-101
Location: Across from Room 147
Fixture/Outlet Type: Drinking Fountain
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 6

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-102
Location: Room 147 Left Single Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 20.5

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-103
Location: Room 147 Right Double Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 7.4

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-108
Location: Women’s Faculty Lavatory by Room 143 Left Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 7.1

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-110
Location: Men’s Faculty Lavatory by Room 143 Left Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 6.3

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-111
Location: Credit Union Room 140
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 27.6

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-114
Location: Girls G7 Lavatory Left
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 5.1

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-117
Location: Room 141 Left
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 8.6

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-119
Location: Room 138A
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 20.4

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-120
Location: Room 136A
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink

Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 7.5

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-123
Location: Fitness Center/Pool Hallway
Fixture/Outlet Type: Drinking Fountain
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 17

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-124
Location: Girls Pool Locker Room
Fixture/Outlet Type: Bubbler
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 20.7

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-125
Location: Girls Pool Locker Room
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 10.8

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-136
Location: Principal’s Office Lavatory
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 9

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-144
Location: G3 Lavatory Left Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 5.5

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-149
Location: B3 Lavatory Right Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 5.3

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-150
Location: Room 111A (Office Area)
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 6

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-155
Location: Prep Room Between S11/S12
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 21.1

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-156

Location: Outside Room 113
Fixture/Outlet Type: Drinking Fountain
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 15.1

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-161
Location: Room 128A
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 9.2

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-164
Location: G5 Lavatory Left Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 17.7

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-167
Location: Room 128 Left
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 14.7

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-168
Location: Room 128 Right
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 12.4

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-169
Location: Room 130A
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 6.9

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-171
Location: Room 129
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 29.8

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-172
Location: Room 131A Sink by Window
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 12.2

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-173
Location: Room 130 Left Wall Left Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 73

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-174
Location: Room 130 Left Wall Center Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 14.7

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-175
Location: Room 130 Left Wall Right Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 11.3

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-176
Location: Room 130 Back Wall Left Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 56

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-177
Location: Room 130 Back Wall Middle Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 20.3

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-178
Location: Room 130 Back Wall Right Sink
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 16.2

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-188
Location: Women's Lavatory by 200.10 Sink by Window
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 44.7

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-189
Location: Women's Lavatory by 200.10 2nd Sink from Left
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 15.1

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-190
Location: Women's Lavatory by 200.10 3rd Sink from Left
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 5.2

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-225
Location: Room 216
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink

Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 11.3

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-228
Location: Across from Rifle Range in Basement
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 11.7

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-229
Location: Across from Rifle Range in Basement
Fixture/Outlet Type: Drinking Fountain
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 9.2

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-230
Location: Basement Laundry Room
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 9.4

Building: Lancaster High School
Sample Number: 104.1-231
Location: Basement Staff Lavatory
Fixture/Outlet Type: Sink
Laboratory Analysis (in ppb): 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 N Y S D O H 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).