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LAWNSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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August 23, 2021

Dear Lawnside School District Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, staff, and community health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the New Jersey Department of Education regulations, the Lawnside School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead on Friday, August 6, 2021.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, schools are required to implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for the Lawnside School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 34 samples taken, all tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]) with the exception of the following areas: *Custodial Closet 1, Boy's Locker Room Bathroom Sink #2, Girl's Locker Room Bathroom Sink #1, Girl's Locker Room Bathroom Sink #2, and the Lower Grade Water Fountain*. Remediation procedures such as flushing the pipes, replacing existing filters and placing new filters on various plumbing lines will take place prior to the start of school on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

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.

For More Information

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 www.lawnside.k12.nj.us. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Mr. Terry Henry, Facilities Manager, at 856-546-4850 ext. 2253.

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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronn H. Johnson
Superintendent of Schools