November 18, 2024

RE: Swedesboro-Woolwich Twp.- Walter Hill School Water Testing

Dear Swedesboro-Woolwich Twp. Community,

The Board of Education and Administration of the Swedesboro-Woolwich Twp. School District is committed to protecting our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations. As such, we tested The Walter Hill School water for Lead in water.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Swedesboro-Woolwich Twp. 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 Walter Hill School. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. **Of the 30 samples taken, 29 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 ug/l ppb), and 1 tested above the action level.**

The table below identifies the drinking water outlet that tested above the 15 ug/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action we have taken to reduce the level of lead at this location.

Sample Location & ID #	First Draw Result in ug/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
Walter Hill School – Room 225 Sink #17 – WHS-Sink/Room 225	41.9 ppb	This outlet was permanently disconnected, due to lack of use by staff

Results of our Confirmation Testing

No confirmation testing is required**.** This outlet is permanently disconnected.

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 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.

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. 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.com. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Mr. Josh Stow, Director of Buildings & Grounds, at **856-241-1552**.

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, 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.

As always, your child's and our employees' health and safety are the Swedesboro-Woolwich Twp.'s highest priority. We value your partnership and are happy to address any questions or concerns you may have about our lead testing program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristin Kellogg
Superintendent of Schools