

HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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June 27, 2024

Dear Holland Patent School Community:

On September 6, 2016, Governor Cuomo signed new legislation to test drinking water in New York Schools for lead contamination. The legislation is outlined in the "State Department of Health Issues New Regulations to Mandate Lead Testing in New York Schools by October 31; New York First State in the Nation to Complete Lead Testing in All School Districts by End of 2016." Revisions were instituted on December 22, 2022 which revised the updated testing period for the Holland Patent Central School District.

The key revisions to the law include:

1. Lead action level in drinking water has been reduced from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb.
2. School buildings previously deemed "lead-free" are no longer exempt from testing requirements. All buildings, to which PHL §1110 applies, that house or provide instructional services to students are required to test for lead in drinking water.
3. Should it be necessary to provide potable water to school occupants following an outlet being taken out of service due to an action level exceedance, the potable water must be provided free of charge.
4. Copies of lead results including lab reports and any lead remediation plans must be made available to the public and posted on the school's website.
5. Compliance testing will occur on a triennial (every 3 years) schedule.

Findings by building are included herein. Additionally, enclosed is information about lead testing, how samples are drawn, and educational material and websites about lead.

Remediation to date involves shutting off the drinking fixtures impacted and signage posted to alert students and staff not to drink water from sinks above allowable levels that are for washing hands. The recent testing included 145 water samples tested and 40 showed lead levels above 5 ppb mark.

Please contact us for further information, clarification and assistance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cheryl Venettozzi
Superintendent of Schools



Nicholas Panuccio
Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance

A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

Holland Patent Central School District

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

July 2, 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 ($\mu\text{g/L}$), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

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?

Out of the 145 locations tested in the Holland Patent CSD, there were 40 fixtures that had a ppb result higher than 5.0.

Samples Collected on 05/16/2024, 05/17/2024 & 05/30/2024				
School	Function / Space	Room	Fixture Type	Sample Results
<i>GWF</i>	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>Room 2</i>	<i>Classroom Sink</i>	<i>17.4 ppb</i>
<i>GWF</i>	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>Room 4</i>	<i>Classroom Sink</i>	<i>7.7 ppb</i>
<i>GWF</i>	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>Room 18</i>	<i>Classroom Sink</i>	<i>165 ppb</i>
<i>GWF</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>Classroom Sink</i>	<i>148 ppb</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Health Office</i>	<i>Exam Room</i>	<i>Sink 1</i>	<i>7.7 ppb</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>Room 211</i>	<i>Classroom Sink 3</i>	<i>19.1 ppb</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Faculty Room</i>	<i>Room 209</i>	<i>Classroom Sink 1</i>	<i>5.9 ppb</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Faculty Room</i>	<i>Room 209</i>	<i>Classroom Sink 2</i>	<i>13.6 ppb</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Locker Room Area</i>	<i>Girls Coach's Office</i>	<i>Sink</i>	<i>5.6 ppb</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Health Office</i>	<i>Exam Room</i>	<i>Classroom Sink</i>	<i>7.7 ppb</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>Room 136</i>	<i>Classroom Sink 1</i>	<i>7.2 ppb</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>	<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>Kitchen Sink 3</i>	<i>9 ppb</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>	<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>Kitchen Sink 4</i>	<i>5.8 ppb</i>

HS	Music Suite	Band Room	Classroom Sink	5.2 ppb
HS	Locker Room Area	Boys Coach's Office	Sink	5.2 ppb
Annex	Pupil Services	Pupil Services	Sink	5.5 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 1	Classroom Sink	14.7 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 3	Classroom Sink	5.4 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 5	Classroom Sink	11.7 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 7	Classroom Sink	14.8 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 8	Classroom Sink	9.3 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 6	Classroom Sink	9 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 6	Drinking Fountain	10 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 4	Classroom Sink	6.5 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 4	Drinking Fountain	7.2 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 2	Classroom Sink	9.4 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 2	Drinking Fountain	6.1 ppb
HPE	Cafeteria	Kitchen	Kitchen Sink 1	13.2 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 11	Classroom Sink	10.5 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 13	Drinking Fountain	9.9 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 12	Drinking Fountain	8.3 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 14	Classroom Sink	8.5 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 16	Classroom Sink	7 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 16	Drinking Fountain	10.4 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 18	Classroom Sink	8.1 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 18	Drinking Fountain	10.5 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 20	Classroom Sink	11.1 ppb
HPE	Classroom	Room 22	Classroom Sink	11.9 ppb
HPE	Faculty	Room 15	Sink	5.9 ppb
Stadium	Concession Stand	Concession Stand	Sink	31.1 ppb

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. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

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 or sampling results, contact our Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance Nicholas Panuccio at 315-865-7505 or go to our school website: www.hpschools.org

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>

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).