

Waterford Township School District
Waterford Elementary School
Atco Elementary School
Thomas Richards Elementary School

03/07/2025

Dear Waterford Township School Parents, Guardians and Staff:

Waterford Township School District is committed to protecting our students' and staff's health. As required by the Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead. We recently had our schools tested for lead and received the results back from the lab.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. 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.

Lead is rarely found in the source water; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines). Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be "lead free". The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

What Actions We Are Taking?

Prior to sampling, Waterford Township School District developed a Lead Sampling Plan for our 3 schools, Waterford Elementary, Thomas Richards Elementary and Atco Elementary and conducted plumbing profiles. The purpose of the plumbing profiles was to identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the schools to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or a lead service line are present.

Waterford Township School District Lead Sampling Plan may be found on our website at www.wtsd.org

All drinking water outlets in the Waterford Township School District were sampled on February 20 and 21, 2025 and we just received the results. Upon receiving the sample results, we are informing you that 2 locations exceeded and had a result greater than the action level of 15 (parts per billion [ppb]) and the results have been posted to our website at www.wtsd.org. The results will be used to assist in the prioritization of future water testing for lead in accordance with the Waterford Township School District Lead Sampling Plan.

We immediately identified the locations and implemented remedial measures for the drinking water outlets with a result greater than the action level of 15 (ppb). This included turning off the outlets 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. The following water sources had results above the 15ppb standard set forth in the NJ regulations and were removed from service immediately. The samples that tested above the standard are highlighted in yellow on the Certificate of Analysis.

Atco Elementary

No exceedances

Thomas Richards Elementary

Kitchen (Pot Filler) / TRE-FO-K / 23.0ppb No longer used Permanently removed from service and list

Room 9 (Bubbler) / TRE-SB-9 / 16.8ppb Removed from service immediately for replacement and retest

Waterford Elementary

No exceedances

How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact James Weaver at Waterford Township School District at 856-304-1010. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection’s website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html>.

Sincerely,

Waterford Township School District