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# Notice to Parents, Guardians, and Staff
# Greenport UFSD
## Lead in School Drinking Water Program 2023 – 2025
## April 2024

Greenport Union Free School District would like to inform all parents, staff, and community members that we have a complete and updated Lead in Water Program for the 2023 to 2025 testing period for lead in water. Our goal is to provide lead safe drinking water sources throughout all its facilities. 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 NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

### What is the first draw testing of school drinking water for lead?

Lead is a heavy metal that usually enters water through distribution systems, including pipes, solder, fixtures, and valves. When ingested, it can interfere with brain development and lead to other health problems, especially in young children. Lead levels may increase when water sits undisturbed in the system. 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.

The Greenport Union Free School District has developed their 2023-2025 Lead in Drinking Water Sampling and Remediation Plan, as required by the New York State Department of Health (Public Health Law Sections 1370-a and 1110, Subpart 67-4 Lead Testing in School Drinking Water).

These are the fixtures above 5 ppb:

| Greenport Elementary School | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AHERA # | SAMPLE LOCATION | RESULT | REMARKS |
| 1042 | Kitchen by Serving Line - SK | 22.0 ppb | Removed from Service; Pending Remediation |
| 1056 | Nurse's Office - SK | 27.0 ppb | Sign; Remediation Complete |

| Greenport Junior / Senior High School | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AHERA # | SAMPLE LOCATION | RESULT | REMARKS |
| 1008 | Boys Locker Room - SP | 18.0 ppb | Removed from Service; Pending Remediation |

Sampling occurred on April 8, 2024.

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.

Please reference the school website for the full inventory when available.

## 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 exposures 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; for example, 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 Erik Daly at edaly@gufsd.org, or go to our school website: www. gufsd.org

**For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:**

- http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm
- https://regs.health.ny.gov/volume-1a-title-10/1942050456/subpart-67-4-lead-testing-school-drinking-water

**For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, 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/
  (available in ten languages).