Holland Central School District
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Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Dear Holland Family,

Please know that the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is paramount. As such, we have embarked on the **Lead Testing of School Drinking Water** as required by NYS. We have begun the reporting and remediation process to comply and exceed expectations. All repairs will be made prior to our students return.
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 (µg/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?

Of the (79) water samples we tested in the District, (16 Elementary, 29 Middle, 31 Highschool, 3 Transportation). **Fourteen (14)** showed lead levels above the 5ppb mark. *(Please note: The previous NYS action level and current Federal level is 15ppb*). The sites that exceeded the 5ppb threshold were:

High School:
133.1-14 Kitchen Handwash Sink 13.9
133.1-15 Kitchen Double Bowl Left Sink 36.1
133.1-16 Kitchen Double Bowl Right Sink 6.0
133.1-17 Nurses Office Sink 5.2
133.1-19 FACS West Wall South Sink 10.7
133.1-20 FACS West Wall North Sink 6.5
Middle School:
133.2-03 Nurses Office Restroom Sink 6.0
133.2-07 Kitchen Triple Sink South - Right Sink 5.6
133.2-17 Concession Metal Sink 16.5

133.2-18 FACS Left Sink 5.3
133.2-19 FACS Right Sink 11.0
133.2-20 FACS Rear Sink 8.0

Elementary School:
133.3-01 Kitchen Prep Sink 6.8
133.3-02 Kitchen Handwash Sink 5.1

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. Remediation of the drinking water elevated outlets can include replacement of the fixture and plumbing, filtration, labeling and/or all of the mentioned. Resampling and re-testing are required to fall within the permissible limit before being put back into service. 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, the lead in school drinking water sampling and analysis report(s) can be found on our website: www.hollandcsd.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).

If you have any health-related questions, please contact your family physician, or the Erie County Department of Health at (716) 858-7650. If you have any questions about our Districts' response to this, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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