PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

International High School
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Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear International High School Family,

Our school system is committed to protecting student and staff health. To protect our community and in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Paterson Public School tested International High School's drinking water for lead.

In compliance with Department of Education regulations, International High School will take immediate corrective action for any drinking water outlet that tests above the action level of 15 µg/L (parts per billion). This includes shutting off the outlet unless it is deemed necessary for non-drinking use. In such cases, a sign stating **"DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"** will be clearly posted.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the Paterson Public Schools. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the __40__ samples taken, all but __1__ tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action [School District Name] has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
SF-8/2nd Fl. Kitchen	27.2	Took fixture offline; Posted notices about repairs and resampling; initiated work order for remediation; will schedule sampling and testing after remediation

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 the 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. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unlike most drinking water contaminants because it typically does not occur naturally in water sources such as groundwater, rivers, or lakes. Instead, it enters drinking water through the corrosion of plumbing materials that contain lead. These materials may include lead-based solder used to connect copper pipes, as well as brass and chrome-plated brass fixtures. In 1986, Congress banned lead solder with more than 0.2% lead and limited the lead content in plumbing materials. However, even approved materials can still corrode over time. When water sits in lead-containing pipes or fixtures for several hours, lead can leach into the water. As a result, the first water drawn from a faucet each day may have elevated lead levels.

Lead in Drinking Water

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 central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at [Website Address]. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact [Name of Contact] at the [School Department Name], [Phone Number].

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at **www.epa.gov/lead**

Sincerely,

Dr. Catherine Forfia-Dion, Principal, cforfia@paterson.k12.nj.us