CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

To: Milwaukee Public Schools Administration and School Board
From: City of Milwaukee Health Department
Date: March 17, 2025
Subject: Lead in Water Recommendations for MPS Facilities

Recommended Actions for Water Used for Drinking, Food Preparation, and Medical Use

Immediate Action Required **10 ppb or higher**	• **Restrict access** to affected taps and fixtures immediately. • **Provide an alternative water source** for drinking, food preparation, and medical use. • **Post clear, age-appropriate signage** indicating the water should not be used for these purposes. • **Initiate remediation** to reduce lead levels as soon as possible.
Ongoing Evaluation Below 10 ppb	• **Continue to evaluate and remediate** taps and fixtures until the lowest possible lead concentration is achieved. • **Prioritize** remediation of taps and fixtures with higher lead concentrations, especially those serving **infants, children under six, and pregnant women.**

General Recommendations

- Consult the EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities manual to implement best practices for training, testing, and taking action.
- Regularly review the MPS lead water program to ensure it reflects current best practices and regulatory requirements.
- Verify that the MPS lead water program is fully implemented through clear policies, procedures, and thorough documentation.

Understanding the Risks of Lead in Drinking Water

No safe blood lead level in children has been identified. All sources of lead exposure should be controlled. While it is unlikely that lead in drinking water at schools would cause high blood lead levels in students or staff, it can contribute to overall exposure. The level of risk varies based on individual factors, specific circumstances, and the amount of water consumed. For example, in the school environment, a child under six who drinks multiple times a day from a contaminated drinking fountain would be at a higher risk of lead exposure. Frequent intake, smaller body size, and higher absorption rates would increase their vulnerability. Policies that ensure safe drinking water in schools are designed to eliminate this risk.

More Information

- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services.** *Drinking Water: Lead.* https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/lead.htm
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).** *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water*. https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).** *About Lead in Drinking Water*. https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/prevention/drinking-water.html