A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

Barker Central School District

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

1/2/2026

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?

218 water outlets were sampled across the district on November 22, 2025. 41 of these outlets were identified as exceeding the 5 ppb threshold and a summary of outlets identified as exceeding the 5 ppb threshold are included below.

Sample #	Location	Fixture/Outlet type	Laboratory Analysis (in ppb)
144.1-14	Room 315 – FACS - Left Sink	Sink	6.3
144.1-15	Room 315 – FACS - Left Center Sink	Sink	5.1
144.1-17	Room 315 – FACS - Right Sink	Sink	8.9
144.1-23	Bay Sink Right	Sink	8.2
144.1-27	Kitchen Soup Filler	Sink	21.8
144.1-28	Girls Bathroom near 314 Left	Sink	54.6
144.1-29	Girls Bathroom near 314 Middle	Sink	18.4
144.1-32	Basement Locker Room North	Sink	264
144.1-34	Furnace Hand Sink	Sink	41.7
144.1-40	Room 181 - Kiln Room - Left	Sink	76.3
144.1-41	Room 181 - Main Room - Right	Sink	7.7

144.1-49	Left Bathroom Aud (Boys)	Sink	5.2
144.1-58	Women's Bathroom near 502 Gym	Sink	5.5
144.1-70	Boys Phys. Ed. Bathroom Boys	Sink	27.8
144.1-73	Room 507 Female Coaches Office	Sink	6.9
144.1-76	Ceramic DF Right Across From Girls Locker Rm	Drinking Fountain	11.8
144.1-77	Men's Bathroom Across From 107 Left	Sink	7.4
144.1-80	Copy Room 107 Bathroom	Sink	13.7
144.1-83	Bathroom by Exit Door 59	Sink	8.7
144.1-84	Bathroom Near Faculty Room Left	Sink	22.8
144.1-85	Bathroom Near Faculty Room Right	Sink	12.3
144.1-86	Faculty Room 135	Sink	7.8
144.1-87	Room 194	Sink	7.0
144.1-89	Basement 004	Sink	6.9
144.1-91	Right Basement Bathroom	Sink	5.2
144.1-101	Women's Bathroom Across From 203 Left	Sink	7.0
144.1-105	Room 228 Back Room	Sink	5.1

ES:

Sample #	Location	Fixture/Outlet type	Laboratory Analysis (in ppb)
144.2-03	Kitchen Bay Sink Middle	Sink	15.9
144.2-04	Kitchen Bay Sink Right	Sink	14.8
144.2-13	Girls Locker Room Left	Sink	85.7
144.2-14	Girls Locker Room Right	Sink	7.9
144.2-15	Girls Coaches Office Bathroom	Sink	9.1
144.2-17	Room 416 Faculty Room	Sink	6.4
144.2-31	Health Office 410	Sink	8.8
144.2-32	Health Office 410 Exam Room	Sink	26.7
144.2-33	Main Office 400	Sink	44.2
144.2-45	Maker Space Left Side Left Sink	Sink	13.4
144.2-46	Maker Space Left Side Right Sink	Sink	11.5
144.2-58	Room 423	Sink	5.6

Concessions:

Sample #	Location	Fixture/Outlet type	Laboratory Analysis (in ppb)
144.3-03	Concession Room Left	Sink	6.2
144.3-05	Maintenance Garage	Sink	5.8

What is being done in response to the results?

The drinking fountain that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) has been removed from service. Certain outlets, such as those in the FACS room, have been outfitted with site specific filters that filter lead appropriately. Outlets including sinks/faucets needed for handwashing or cleaning will remain in use and a sign has been posted at the outlet indicating the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions. These precautionary measures will remain in place until corrections are implemented, and further testing is done.

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, contact Jacob Reimer at jreimer@barkercsd.net, by phone at 716-795-3832, or visit the school website at www.barkercsd.net.

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).