WAYZATA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Lead in Water Testing Results – Fall 2023

Wayzata Public Schools is dedicated to safeguarding the health of students, teachers, and staff. In compliance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.335, Lead in School Drinking Water (https://revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=121A.335) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines, the District carries out routine testing of our school's drinking water for lead to ensure the protection of our community. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the EPA both recommend that lead measures in drinking water be below 20 parts per billion (ppb).

How does Lead get into drinking water?

Lead usually enters drinking water through plumbing materials such as pipes, fountain/faucet fixtures, and solder as a result of corrosion, or wearing away, of materials. Therefore, lead concentrations will vary throughout a water system depending on how new or old the system is. In a school's water system, lead levels may increase when water in the plumbing system stands overnight, over the weekend, and throughout term breaks when there are no classes.

What are the health effects of lead?

There is no known safe level of lead exposure. Children younger than six years old are most at risk due to their rapid rate of growth and ongoing brain development. Exposure to lead can cause damage to the brain, nervous system, red blood cells, and kidneys. Lead also has the potential to cause lower IQs, hearing impairments, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, developmental delays, and poor classroom performance. Pregnant women and their fetuses are especially vulnerable to lead exposure since lead can significantly harm the fetus, causing lower birth weight and slowing normal mental and physical developments.

WPS Lead in Water Testing Results

The District, in collaboration with the Institute for environmental Assessment (IEA) conducted the testing for lead in drinking water. The sampling was conducted in accordance with the EPA model, which involved collecting samples from all outlets that are currently in use or have the potential to be used for drinking or cooking purposes. IEA collected 991 water samples from identified potable

water sources from October 26, 2023, to November 10, 2023, for lead analysis from the following buildings:

- Creekside (2 Samples)
- Central Services Building (4 Samples)
- Greenwood Elementary (99 Samples)
- Meadow Ridge Elementary (94 Samples)
- Oakwood Elementary (93 Samples)
- Sunset Hill Elementary (83 Samples)
- Wayzata Central Middle School (67 Samples)
- Wayzata High School (131 Samples)
- Welcome Center (1 Sample)
- Birchview Elementary (35 Samples)
- Gleason Lake Elementary (57 Samples)
- Kimberly Lane Elementary (49 Samples)
- Northwoods Elementary (111 Samples)
- Plymouth Creek Elementary (67 Samples)
- Transitions Building (2 Samples)
- Wayzata East Middle School (50 Samples)
- Wayzata West Middle School (46 Samples)

The samples were sent to a certified drinking water laboratory for analysis. Of the 991 total samples collected, the results have identified 23 locations as above the standard limit of 20 parts per billion. 968 samples showed results below the EPA guidance value.

What is being done in response to the results?

As per the recommendation by EPA/MDH, outlets that exceeded the Action level of 15 ppm underwent a retest, known as the flush testing. During flush testing, two samples were collected by the IEA from each fixture. The first sample was collected after the fixture was flushed for 30 seconds. The second sample was collected after the fixture was flushed for 120 seconds. The results showed that one location still had lead content above 5.0 ppb, which is the standard that will go into effect July 1st, 2024. As part of the remediation process, this fixture was taken out of service. Outlets that tested below 20 ppb remain in service without any restrictions.

How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Chandala Nagendrappa at 763.745.5152 or chandala.nagendrappa@wayzataschools.org.

For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

You may find additional information about lead at:
Lead (http://www.health.state.mn.us/topics/lead/index.html)

Please be assured that Wayzata Public School District continues to be proactive in efforts to keep our students and staff safe.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience during the testing.