

A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

07/08/2026

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 (NYSDOH) 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), the NYSDOH 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.

Which samples exceeded 5 ppb during the first draw testing?

Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School – Elmsford Union Free School District				
Date	Sample ID	Floor	Location	Lead Level (ppb)
06/16/2026	AH-1	First	Nurse’s Office 100 – Sink	7.47
06/16/2026	AH-6	First	Home Economics 117 – Sink (middle of room, room entry side)	6.14
06/16/2026	AH-11	Third	Hallway Across From Girl’s Room 305 Water Fountain	24.40
06/16/2026	AH-12	Third	Science Room 317 Storage/Office – Sink	5.70

What is the initial response to results that exceed 5 ppb?

Outlets with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) are immediately removed from service, unless the outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign is posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used as a potable water source. Faculty using these specific outlets are informed of the results and the new usage parameters of the outlets. Outlets that test below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

Specific Response Actions

Alexander Hamilton Jr./Sr. High School – Elmsford Union Free School District	
Location	Response Action
Nurse's Office 100 – Sink	Add signage, hand washing only
Home Economics 117 – Sink (middle of room, room entry side)	Add signage, hand washing only
Hallway Across From Girl's Room 305 Water Fountain	Outlet shut down.
Science Room 317 Storage/Office – Sink	Add signage, hand washing only

Should the District wish to perform remediation to reintroduce outlets as potable water sources without restrictions, actions may include replacing the fixture or outlet, installing point of use filters, replacing plumbing, or creating a standard flushing program. Post remediation water testing will be performed to confirm the response action has achieved its intended purpose and returned lead in water levels to at, or below, the 5.0 ppb limit before the outlet is put back into use as a potable water source.

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 exposures 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; for example, 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 *James Frees* at (914) 592-5686, or go to our school website: www.eufsd.org

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, 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/> (available in ten languages).