



# JACKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*Stephen Genco, Superintendent*

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## **Jackson School District Lead Testing Results and Action Plan**

April 3, 2017

Dear Jackson Township School District Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting the health of our students and staff. To protect our community and to be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, the Jackson Township School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the Jackson School District is implementing immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15  $\mu\text{g/l}$  (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be 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 Jackson Township School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 284 samples taken on Saturday March 19th, all but 8 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15  $\mu\text{g/l}$  [ppb]).

The table below identifies the water outlets that tested above the 15 ppb for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Jackson Township School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at this location.

**(See Next Two Pages)**

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Facility	Sampling ID	Location	Initial Result in µg/l (ppb)	Flush Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
Memorial High School	JM-POE	Point of Entry Boiler Room- Fine Arts	24.7	1.42	Posted as “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”
Memorial High School	JM-WF-20	Water Fountain Across from Nurse	23.8	12.60	Immediately taken out of service
Memorial High School	JM-IM-60	Ice Machine Trainer’s Room	26.0	1.50	Immediately taken out of service
Memorial High School	JM-S-65	Sink Room 137	39.2	2.30	Posted as “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”
Memorial High School	JM-S-74	Sink Art 403	20.6	1.23	Posted as “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”
Switlik Elementary School	SES-POE	Point of Entry - Basement	412.0	12.4	Posted as “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”
McAuliffe Middle School	CM-S-43	Sink Room 214	18.1	0.650	Posted as “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”
Transportation	TG-POE	Point of Entry - Boiler Room	61.8	0.821	Posted as “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY”

**ND= Non Detectable – Below the detection limit of 0.5 ppb**

## **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 your 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 unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

## **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. **The full results are also available on our website at [www.jacksonsd.org](http://www.jacksonsd.org) – select “Departments and Programs” and then “Facilities Department” to view them.**

For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Edward Ostroff, Director of Buildings and Grounds at (732) 833-4653.

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](http://www.epa.gov/lead)**, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,  
**Stephen Genco**  
**Superintendent of Schools**