Notice of Mandated Lead Testing in Schools

Feb. 25, 2022

Dear Jackson Township Board of Education Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting the health of our students, and staff. To ensure we are in compliance with Department of Education regulations, the district will be testing our schools' drinking water for lead on the dates listed below (when students and staff are not in the buildings). Similar testing was performed in 2017.

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022

- Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School-1025 Larsen Road Jackson, NJ
- McAuliffe Middle School-35 South Hope Chapel Road Jackson, NJ
- Elms Elementary School-780 Patterson Road Jackson, NJ
- Goetz Middle School-835 Patterson Road Jackson, NJ
- H. C Johnson Elementary School-1021 Larsen Road Jackson, NJ

Saturday, March 5, 2022

- Jackson Liberty High School -125 North Hope Chapel Road Jackson, NJ
- Transportation Building – 165 Don Connor Blvd. Jackson, NJ
- Administration Building – 151 Don Connor Blvd. Jackson, NJ
- Holman Elementary School-125 Manhattan Street Jackson, NJ
- Rosenauer Elementary School- 60 Citadel Drive, Jackson
- Switlik Elementary School-75 West Veterans Highway Jackson, NJ
- Jackson Memorial High School-101 Don Connor Blvd. Jackson, NJ

We will notify our community of the results of this testing. In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, IF any drinking water outlet shows a result greater than the action level 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]), the district will implement immediate remedial measures. 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.

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.