



JACKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Stephen Genco, Superintendent

Jackson School District Begins Mandatory Lead Testing in All Buildings

March 9, 2017

The Jackson Township Board of Education is committed to protecting the health of our students and staff. As required by the Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead. The Jackson Township Board of Education has scheduled the lead drinking water sampling for Liberty High School, Goetz Middle School, **Rosenauer Elementary, Johnson Elementary, Crawford Elementary, Central Administration and Transportation for March 11, 2017 and Memorial High School, McAuliffe Middle School, Switlik Elementary, Holman Elementary and Elms Elementary for March 19, 2017.

**Due to circumstances beyond our control, sampling at Rosenauer Elementary School will be conducted on March 16, 2017.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much of it enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. 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.

Lead is rarely found in the source water; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines). Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be “lead free”. The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as “lead free”. However, prior to January 4, 2014, “lead free” allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

What Actions We Are Taking?

Prior to sampling, the Jackson Township Board of Education developed a Lead Sampling Plan and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the school to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or a lead service line are present.

The Jackson Township Board of Education Lead Sampling Plan may be found on our website at www.jacksonsd.org. Visit the “Departments and Programs” tab and select “Facilities Department.”

All drinking water outlets in the district will be sampled on March 11th & March 19th. We anticipate receiving the results from our laboratory within five to seven business days of sampling. Upon receiving the sample results, the Jackson Township Board of Education will inform you if any of the drinking water outlets had a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]) and will post all of the results on our website at www.jacksonsd.org. The results will be used to assist in the prioritization of future water testing for lead in accordance with the districts Lead Sampling Plan.

The Jackson Township Board of Education will also implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (ppb). This will include 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.

How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Edward Ostroff, Director of Buildings and Grounds at 732-833-4653. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection’s website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html>.

Sincerely,

Stephen Genco
Superintendent of Schools.