



Medford Township Public Schools

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Dear Medford Township School Community:

In the early Spring of 2016, several school districts and communities nationally reported concerns regarding the quality of their potable water. As always here in Medford, we strive to be proactive regarding concerns of this nature. In May of 2016, Mr. John Gallagher, Supervisor of Operations employed the services of an Environmental Company to test our potable water in each of our schools and facilities. We received the results from the company on June 3, 2016, indicating that all of the five random samples at each location were below the required action limits at that time.

On July 13, 2016, The New Jersey State Board of Education (NJBOE) adopted new regulations regarding testing for lead in potable water in all public schools throughout New Jersey. Regulations mandated that testing be performed within 365 days of the effective date. As our school district is committed to protecting the health of our students, teachers, and staff, we employed a company to retest all of our facilities in relationship to the new established standards by the NJBOE. This is in addition to the general municipal water testing completed monthly to the incoming potable water.

The new NJBOE established regulations require extensive testing of all our water sources, including water fountains, sinks with attached fountain drinking bubblers, all general use faucets and utility sinks. Depending upon the results of the sampling, remedial measures may include, but are not limited to water flushing, fixture and/or valve replacement, pipe removal and/or general cleaning. We are directed as per the NJBOE regulations to implement immediate remedial measures for any potable water outlet with results greater than the action level of 15 ug/l [ppb] (parts per billion). These may include turning off an outlet, unless it is determined that the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a sign posted **"DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HAND WASHING ONLY."**

An outline of the testing results are listed below. Based upon the technical guidance developed by the NJDEP, we completed and submitted a plumbing profile for each of our facilities. We identified and tested all potable water and food preparation outlets. Of the 163 samples taken, all but 14 tested below the lead action level established by NJDEP for lead in drinking water of 15 ug/l [ppb] (parts per billion). Please note that **92%** of the samples taken throughout the district **passed**.

When reviewing the attached results you will notice that 10 of the 14 action level samples are located in the Haines Sixth Grade Center. As you are aware, Haines transitioned from an elementary school to the Sixth Grade Center in 2004. Many of the classrooms at Haines have a working sink with a fountain drinking bubbler. After checking with the nine individual teachers within these identified classrooms, it was reported to me that the bubblers have not been utilized for drinking purposes for years. Students and staff primarily drink from fountains in the hallways that have not been identified through the sampling process. The other four failed locations are associated with old fixtures and/or non-potable use locations that will be immediately remedied. All remediation is expected to be completed over the next several weeks, well before the close of the school year.

All samples were taken from first draw, non-flowing conditions to be conservative, as flowing conditions may result in non-detectable results. I am pleased to report that after receiving the flush tests results, all 14 locations were **below** the acceptable NJDEP standard for lead in potable water. These results indicate that our remediation will focus at the faucets/drinking fountains, not our piping or water source.

The table below identifies all water outlets that test above the 15 ug/l [ppb] (parts per billion) for lead. The actual lead levels and the immediate remedial actions that our district has already taken to remediate the levels of lead at these locations are also listed:

#	Sample Location	First Draw Result in ugl(ppb)	Flush Draw Result in ugl(ppb)	Interim Remedial Action	Basis/Follow Up
1	Allen School Room 3 sink ALLN-CS-RM 3	23.1	<2.00	Sink taken out of service	Replace Faucet Retest
2	Memorial School Kitchen Faucet MEM-KE-KITCH	22.1	<2.00	Faucet taken out of service	Replace faucet Retest
3	Cranberry Pines School Room 703 Fountain CRAN-DW-KM703	17.8	2.07	Fountain taken out of service	Replace fountain bubbler and Retest other fountain near
4	Cranberry Pines School Media Center Sink CRAN-SO-Media	21.6	<2.00	Sink taken out of service	Replace Faucet Retest
5	Haines School Room 26 – Bubbler SIX DW-RM-26	18.3	5.07	Bubbler removed from service	Permanent removal from service
6	Haines School Room 25 – Bubbler SIX DW- RM - 25	26.1	5.94	Bubbler removed from service	Permanent removal from service
7	Haines School Room 24 – Bubbler SIX DW-RM-24	54	<2.00	Bubbler removed from service	Permanent removal from service
8	Haines School Room 23- Sink SIX-CS-RM-23	138	2.48	Sink taken out of service	Replace faucet Retest
9	Haines School Room 22 – Bubbler SIX-DW-RM-22	95	8.15	Bubbler removed from service	Permanent removal from service
10	Haines School Room 21 – Sink SIX-CS-RM-21	36.7	2.27	Sink taken out of service	Replace Faucet Retest
11	Haines School Room 9 – Sink SIX-CS-RM-9	17.2	<2.00	Sink taken out of service	Replace Faucet Retest
12	Haines School Room 5 – Bubbler SIX-DW-RM-5	122	5.53	Bubbler removed from service	Permanent removal from service
13	Haines School Media Center – Sink SIX-SO-MEDIA	19	<2.00	Sink taken out of service	Replace faucet Retest
14	Haines School Gymnasium – Fountain Bubbler SIX-DW-GYM	20.5	7.04	Bubbler removed from service	Permanent removal from service

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 because of 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 higher 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 person's total exposure of lead.

For More Information

A copy of our district's test results are available at our Maintenance/Transportation Center, 28 Branin Road for inspection by staff, parents and the public, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The results will also be available on our district website. For more information on reducing lead exposure in your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

As I previously mentioned, the Medford Township Public School believes in being proactive and takes the safety of students and staff very seriously. We are grateful that our sampling program indicated relatively minor issues as compared to many other districts across the state where much larger problems are being identified. With consistent flushing, proper maintenance, service to some existing units and removal of a few older fixtures, we anticipate passing all future testing events. As always, if you should have any questions/concerns or need additional information do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Del Rossi, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

JJD/gp