

## LEAD TAP WATER MONITORING CONSUMER NOTICE OF RESULTS

This notice is being sent to you by: South Hunterdon Regional High School  
Water System ID#NJ1026302

Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act regulations require that we inform you of the results of Lead tap water monitoring for the tap that was tested as part of our Lead and Copper monitoring program. In addition, we are required to provide an explanation of the health effects of Lead, the steps that you, as consumers, can take to reduce your exposure to Lead in drinking water, and contact information for our water system. This notice must also provide the maximum contaminant level goal and the action level for Lead.

The levels of Lead found in the (10) taps that were tested include the following:

Location	Sample Date	Lead Result ug/L
Aud. Snack Counter	12/20/17	< 1.0
Nurse Med Counter	12/20/17	< 1.0
A104 Science	12/20/17	2.0
D101 Art	12/20/17	2.0
H108 Art	12/20/17	2.0
H109 Science	12/20/17	3.0
Kitchen	12/20/17	4.0
A106 Science	12/20/17	6.0
C102 Compute Lab	12/20/17	14.0
C105 Home Ec	12/20/17	16.0

A Lead level of 14.0 parts per billion (ug/L) was reported at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for samples collected during December, 2017. Our 90<sup>th</sup> percentile **result did not exceed the action level; however, due to previously exceeding the lead action level during May 2017, we are required to continue implementing the corrosion control steps in an effort to minimize lead levels in the drinking water.** Typically, this program includes source water treatment and/or corrosion control treatment, and public education.

### What Does This Mean

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15.0 ug/L. This means that water from taps used for human consumption do not exceed the action level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90<sup>th</sup> percentile result). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then certain steps must be taken to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

### Health effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

## Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Buildings built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. New buildings are also at risk because even legally "lead-free" plumbing (i.e., new brass faucets fittings and valves) may contain up to 0.25% lead, which can leach significant amounts of lead into the water, especially hot water. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

EPA estimates that up to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

*When water stands in Lead pipes or plumbing systems containing Lead for several hours or more, the Lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain elevated lead levels.*

## Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Your Water

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water run from the faucet for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This procedure flushes lead-containing water from the pipes and should be followed any time the water in a faucet hasn't been used for several hours. The longer the water remains in the plumbing the more lead it may contain.
2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider using bottled water or a water filter designed to remove lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.NSF.org](http://www.NSF.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to ensure water quality.
5. **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provided to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

## **For More Information**

Contact Kerry Sevilis at South Hunterdon Regional High School, PWSID #NJ1026302, (609)397-2060  
For more information on reducing lead exposure 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 Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact your health care provider.

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