

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WICOMICO COUNTY



DONNA C. HANLIN, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 1538
2424 NORTHGATE DRIVE
SALISBURY, MD 21802-1538

410-677-4400
FAX 410-677-4444
www.wcboe.org

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IMPORTANT NOTICE to PARENTS of FRUITLAND PRIMARY ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT

ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)

In accordance with Maryland State Regulations, Wicomico County Public Schools (WCPS) is required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead under COMAR 26.16.07.07. On May 15, 2018, WCPS collected 31 samples from Fruitland Primary. Of these water samples, one (1) had levels of lead exceeding the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the sample(s) collect at Fruitland Primary were as follows:

46.9 parts per billion (ppb) were found in the following location (s):

* Short water fountain in cafeteria

ACTION LEVEL (AL)

The AL is 20 ppb for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The AL is the concentration of lead, which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN

The short water fountain in the cafeteria was shut down/turned off within two hours of receiving the test results.

NEXT STEPS

The Wicomico County Public School System has purchased a new water fountain, and it was installed on May 24, 2018. The new water fountain will not be put back into service until additional water testing has verified the lead results are under the State legal limit.

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 the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. 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.

SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead; these include: lead based paint, lead contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead free”. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person’s potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water and 44 to 60 percent for infants who consume mostly formula mixes with lead containing water.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:

1. Run your water to flush out lead. If water hasn’t been used for several hours, run water for 14 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Lead from the plumbing can dissolve more easily in hot water.
3. Look for alternative sources (e.g. bottled water) if lead levels are elevated.

- **Note-** Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions regarding the regulations, please contact Mr. David Fulton, Environmental and Safety Specialist for Wicomico County Public Schools, at 410-677-4593. You can also review the Questions and Answers section (FAQ) on the Wicomico County Public School’s web site (www.wcboe.org) in the “Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water” section.

If you are concerned about your child’s exposure to lead, please contact your local health department or health care provider to find out how to get your child tested for lead. The contact at the Wicomico County Health Department is Ms. Shannon Palmer, Lead and Asthma Program Supervisor, 410-543-6942 ext. 12995.