



WEST MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

46 Highlander Drive, West Milford, New Jersey 07480
Phone: 973-697-1700 www.wmtps.org Fax: 973-697-8351

Alex Anemone, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Barbara Francisco
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Daniel Novak
Director of Education

Elizabeth McQuaid, OTD
Director of Special Services

September 15, 2017

West Milford Board of Education
Macopin Middle School
70 Highlander Drive
West Milford, NJ 07480

Dear Macopin Middle School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, the West Milford Board of Education tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, WMBOE implemented immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ (parts per billion [ppb]). This included turning off and/or replacing the outlet. If it is determined that the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the West Milford School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 20 samples taken, all but 6 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action WMBOE has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
Water Faucet in Rm. 121 ID # H-2	23.1	Disconnected and replaced outlet. Retest result 4.74
Water Faucet in Rm. A ID # H-10	25.0	Disconnected and replaced outlet. Retest result 2.48
Kitchen 3 bay sink-faucet ID # H-14	18.9	Disconnected and replaced outlet. Retest result 8.47
Water Fountain-Girls locker room ID # H-8	54.6	Disconnected and removed
Hallway Water Fountain by Rm. E ID # H-17	70.2	Disconnected and replaced outlet. Retest result <2.0
Water Faucet in Rm. 107 ID # H-5	16.0	Disconnected and replaced outlet. Retest result 2.0

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.

For More Information

A copy of the test results are available in the school main office office for inspection by the public, and can be viewed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. with an appointment.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Anemone', written over a faint, large, stylized letter 'A' that serves as a watermark or background for the signature.

Dr. Alex Anemone
Superintendent of Schools