

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Punxsutawney Area School District is required to notify its customers in accordance with the Public Notification Rule (PN) which is part of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The rule ensures that consumers will know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices alert consumers if there is risk to public health, or provide information that the water supply system is in compliance based on sampling events that have occurred. The following notification applies to the consumer tap notice for the lead monitoring program.

A lead level of <1.0 – 3.00 parts per billion (ppb) was reported for the samples collected at the Bell Township Elementary School. We are happy to report that the results are below the lead action level of 15 ppb.

The Federal and State regulatory agencies require that our water does not exceed their Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's). These MCL's are set at very stringent levels for health effects. To understand the possible effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. The attached table compares those contaminants monitored for to with the regulatory limit of that substance. If the contaminant exceeds the limit at any time, a violation is said to occur. We are proud that our drinking water meets the Federal and State requirements for lead. We have learned through our ongoing monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, but all are below acceptable levels.

What does this mean?

The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. 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.

What are the 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.

What are the sources of lead?

Children are exposed to lead when they ingest deteriorating lead-based paint, inhale or ingest lead-contaminated dust and/or lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and plumbing. Punxsutawney Area School is responsible for providing a high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used

in plumbing components, therein, the District ensures adequate treatment measures are in place to reduce the potential of lead leaching from facility plumbing. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Although the schools drinking water lead levels were below the action level, if you are concerned about lead exposures, you should ask your health care provider about testing your child for high levels of lead in the blood.

What can be done to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water?

- Run water to flush out lead. If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing and formula or drink mixes.
- Do not boil water to remove lead.
- Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. NSF Consumer Affairs Office has developed a NSF Water Fact Kit for consumers that include specific information about lead in drinking water at: http://www.nsf.org/consumer/newsroom/kit_water.asp For More Information Call us at or visit our website at to find out additional information on lead. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

Punxsutawney Area School District – Bell Township Elementary School

PWSID No. 6330312

Lead Monitoring Program Results

LEAD (MCL 15 ppb)						
	Number of Samples	Average	Minimum	Maximum	90th Percentile	Number Exceeding A.L.
2016	#	ppb	ppb	ppb	ppb	#
September	5	1.4	<1.0	3.0	2.5	0