



WESTPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

January 11, 2017

To the Students, Families, and Staff of the Westport Elementary School,

During recent sampling for lead and copper, some water taps at our school had lead levels that exceed the Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities.

We would like to inform you about our plans to reduce potential exposure to lead in drinking water at our school. Lead is not believed to be in our water source but plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain lead, resulting in an increase in the lead content in some of our tap water. Exposure to lead is a concern because lead is a toxic metal that has a range of adverse health effects.

The administration takes these results very seriously and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. The following information describes steps we are taking to address the issue of lead in the water. Please note that no water coolers/bubblers in the school were found to have lead or copper in the water.

To safeguard our students and staff, our school is working closely and cooperatively with MassDEP and taking actions as follows:

1. We have removed from service all taps with lead levels over the Action Level.
2. We have developed a sampling plan to conduct testing at outlets (faucets, water fountains, etc.) where students and staff get water for drinking, beverage preparation and cooking.
3. We are implementing a flushing and water usage plan to safeguard against lead exposure. This includes the daily flushing of water fountains and/or faucets at sinks and the limitation of water consumption to cold-water faucets for food and beverage preparation.
4. We will undertake efforts to determine the cause of this lead Action Level exceedance and evaluate the adequacy of our existing corrosion control system. We will develop and put into place a corrective action plan as quickly as possible following additional testing and consultation.
5. Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead exposure.

A Reminder: The water system at the school is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. If you have questions about lead in your home's water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.

Sincerely,

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