



Westport
Community
Schools

Facilities Office

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Ann Dargon, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Michael Duarte, Head of Maintenance
RE: Lead and Copper Testing at Elementary School
DATE: January 25, 2017

The mandated testing for Lead and Copper for all schools is issued by the DEP. Lead and Copper is scheduled to be tested every three years. These samples are taken by our Licensed Water Operator and submitted to a certified laboratory. The High and Elementary Schools have 10 DEP approved testing sites and the Macomber School has 5. These results have been below the action level or non-detectible

As you know, the District decided to participate in a voluntary Mass DEP/UMass-Amherst Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water. We only enrolled the Elementary School for this program. Over 160 samples were taken on 12/3/16 and were retrieved from the District by the laboratory on 12/6/16.

Results were received in 1/10/17 indicating some primary sample results exceed the action level for lead and copper, but all except two samples did not pass the flush test. A primary draw requires water to remain dormant for at least 8 hours. A flush sample is drawn after a primary sample is taken and a 30 second run off is completed. Then a flush sample is taken. All flush samples were timed with a stop watch to follow the procedure required by the State. No hallway water cooler sample results exceeded action levels for lead or copper.

I met with you on 1/11/17 to discuss we would need to propose a plan of action. I also spoke with Margaret Finn from the Boston DEP and Rick Larson from UMass Amherst. I had conversations with both agents about a plan of action I developed. They were pleased with what we proposed to do.

1. Remove bubbler heads in classrooms.
2. Install signage behind sink indicating "Hand Washing Only".
3. Replace 2 faucets in kitchen for the sinks.
4. Replace 2 faucets for the kettles (kitchen equipment).
5. Replace faucet for the nurse's sink.
6. Begin flushing program on daily basis (Monday – Friday).
7. Re-test to monitor status of system.

District Licensed Water Operator Randy Clarkson was also in contact with the DEP Lakeville office. The Lakeville agent was also shown this plan of action and was good with it. She also wanted us to take 2 separate samples for pH for the water at the Elementary School. Two separate samples were drawn and delivered to the laboratory and we are awaiting the results and any recommendations after the results are received.

On 1/12/17, areas that were exceeding the MCL had the cold water shut off for all bubblers/faucets. Signage was placed at the sinks in each of these rooms indicating why they were shut off. Other faucets/sinks that did not have bubbler heads were labeled for "Hand Washing Only".

I called the Board of Health office on 1/13/17 at 8:40 a.m. to notify them of the situation. You and I also met with Tim King on 1/17/17 at 12:45 p.m. to update him on the lead and copper situation.

On 1/21/17, I began the process of removing the classroom bubblers and putting up new signage reflecting "Hand Washing Only". The remainder of the bubblers will be removed on 1/28/17 as long as plumbing parts are received. The faucet for the nurse's office sink will be replaced.

On 1/22/17, two new faucets were installed on two sinks in the kitchen. The Food Service Manager has ordered two new faucets to be installed for the kettles by her equipment contractor. The faucet for the mixer has been removed completely and will not be replaced due to lack of need.

The District will adopt a flushing program and repeat tests will be conducted on the faucets used for consumer consumption (kitchen). Once the results are received and discussed with the DEP, we will complete any directives given by the DEP. We are in the process of evaluating why the primary tests were above the MCL. We will be considering such things as lack of usage (stagnant water), the pH of the water and any other possibilities that the DEP feels we should explore. Rick Larson from UMass indicated to me that the program is out of funds. Any additional testing would be paid for by the District. We did inquire from our independent laboratory what the price was for lead testing and that would be \$7.50 per sample and also \$7.50 per sample for copper.