



# MARLBORO TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT

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May 17, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Marlboro Township Public Schools (MTPS) is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and comply with the Department of Education regulations, MTPS tested all schools' devices (sinks and water fountains) for the presence of lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, MTPS implemented immediate remedial measures for any device with a result greater than or equal to the action level of 15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$  (parts per billion [ppb]). Any water fountains that needed to be remediated were immediately taken out of service and the necessary repairs were made. These water fountains will remain out of service until they are retested in June, at which time they will be returned to service provided that their levels fall below the action level. Only 1.5% of the total devices were water fountains able to be accessed by students. For any sinks containing a result greater than the action level, signage stating "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" was immediately posted. The sinks have been flushed and necessary repairs will be made. The signs will remain on the affected sinks until they are retested in June and contain a result less than the action level.

### **Results of MTPS Lead Testing**

Technical guidance was developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in order to provide a consistent manner in which school districts addressed lead testing. MTPS completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the district. Through this effort, we identified and tested all 344 devices district-wide. The 344 district devices were sampled twice between the dates of April 12 and April 13, 2017. As a result, 304 devices tested below the action level and were deemed to be safe. The balance of the devices (40) across the district required additional testing due to levels at or above the action level.

The total number of devices tested at Robertsville Elementary School was 40. The table below identifies the device(s) that tested above the 15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$  [ppb] for lead, the actual lead level, and any remedial action has taken to reduce the levels of lead at this location.

Sampling ID	Initial Result in µg/l (ppb)	Flush Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
RV-S-14	18.9	1.07	Posted as "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" Device was flushed and aerator replaced
RV-S-16	182	44.6	Posted as "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" Device was flushed and aerator replaced
RV-S-17	16.2	1.93	Posted as "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" Device was flushed and aerator replaced

Please know that MTPS has taken lead testing with the utmost care and diligence to maintain a safe, healthy environment for all students, staff, and any other individuals who visit district schools and/or buildings. While the district did experience devices with levels at or above the action level, again, only 1.5% of the total devices were water fountains able to be accessed by students. An immediate action plan to remediate the affected devices was put into place. As such, there was never a need to provide alternate water sources in any district location.

### **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 exposure, more so than healthy adults.

### **How Lead Enters 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.

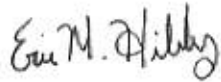
### **For More Information**

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Test results are also available on our website at [www.mtpps.org](http://www.mtpps.org) (under the Quick Links section on the left hand side of the page). For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Mike Crivelli, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds at (732) 972-2122.

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](http://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 that reads "Eric M. Hibbs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Eric M. Hibbs, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools