

August 3, 2018

Dear Parents and Staff,

Recently, the Maryland Department of the Environment instituted new regulations that require all Maryland schools, both public and nonpublic, to test their drinking water outlets for the presence of lead. This includes all sources from which water is consumed or used for food and drink preparations.

In late June, water samples were collected from all water sources in the TA buildings. **The results of these tests indicated that with the exception of 3 locations, all results were below the safe threshold of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for the presence of lead and are safe to use.**

The report did identify 3 areas where water samples had levels of lead exceeding safe drinking water standards. These areas are indicated below and we are required by law to report these findings to you.

The elevated lead results from the samples collected were as follows:
Main Building, 1st floor, sink that shares a wall with the Dining Room: 21.9 ppb
Elementary Building, 1st floor, Room 102, sink furthest from the toilets: 152 ppb
Middle School, 2nd floor, restroom: 51.1 ppb

*A concentration of lead above 20 parts per billion (ppb) triggers required remediation.

These 3 areas have undergone further testing to determine the source of the lead and once the results of these secondary tests are analyzed, we will implement remediation measures to ensure these areas comply with state standards.

We have posted notices prominently by these sinks to notify users that these water sources should be used for hand washing only and should not be used for drinking. The faucets will be completely replaced at these 3 locations once secondary testing is completed.

As per COMAR 26.16.07.09 we are required to provide you with the following information:

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. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. 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.

SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter,

brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:

1. *Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.*
2. *Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.*

Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead. If you are concerned about exposure; contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

Please be assured that your child's health is, and continues to be, our highest priority and we are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for your child. If you have any additional concerns regarding the sample results or would like to see the laboratory report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yaacov Cohen
Executive Director