

## Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)** **Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia Campus**

#### **ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)**

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On August 24, 2018, 61 lead water samples were collected from Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia Campus. Of these lead water samples, 22 had levels of lead exceeding the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the sample(s) collected at [insert name of facility] were as follows:

109 parts per billion (ppb) Denton Pantry Icemaker  
28.2 parts per billion (ppb) Denton Room 207 Sink  
710 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 219 Sink  
38.5 parts per billion (ppb) Baker OT/PT Water Fountain  
26.9 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 201 Sink  
35.1 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 221 Sink  
680 parts per billion (ppb) Baker Kitchen Icemaker Fridge  
35.9 parts per billion (ppb) Denton MPR Sink  
270 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Cafeteria Icemaker  
795 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 127B Sink  
24.1 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 139 Sink  
52.8 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 144 Sink  
112 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 130 Sink  
44.5 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 132 Sink  
28.4 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 135 Sink  
58.8 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 145 Sink  
22.2 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 138 Sink  
81.1 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 131 Sink  
65.1 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 134 Sink  
39 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 205 Sink  
49.1 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 207 Sink  
46.5 parts per billion (ppb) Steiner Room 146 Sink

#### **ACTION LEVEL (AL)**

The AL is 20 ppb for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation.

#### **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.

### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN**

The Maryland School for the Deaf Columbia Campus has shut down the affected water fountains, sinks and icemakers.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Maryland School for the Deaf Columbia Campus will be installing point of use filtration devices and/or replacing fixtures in the affected areas.

### **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**

1. For additional information, please contact Ann Miller at 301-360-2010. 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](http://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.