

NOTICE OF TAP WATER RESULTS
LEAD AND COPPER COMPLIANCE SAMPLING PROGRAM

PWS Name: Alice A. Macomber School
PWS ID: 4334004

Date: 10/23/18

Dear Consumer:

As you may know, Alice A. Macomber School is also a public water system (PWS) responsible for providing drinking water that meets state and federal standards. This notice reports the lead and copper results from the samples collected at this facility on *September 21, 2018*.

A total of 5 were taken and the following table provides information on the tap location and the water sample result represented in milligrams per liter (mg/l):

Building Sampling Location	Lead (mg/l)	This result is above the Lead Action Level	Copper (mg/l)	This result is above the Copper Action Level
1. Kitchen East Sink	.010	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.75	X
2. Fountain Across Room 13	.001	<input type="checkbox"/>	.71	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Fountain Near Ladies Room	.165	X	5.85	X
4. Fountain Room 8	.129	X	1.54	X
5. Art Room Sink	.001	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.45	X

What Does This Mean?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) set the **Lead Action Level¹ for lead in drinking water at 0.015 mg/l (or parts per million) and the Copper Action Level at 1.3 mg/l**. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA and MassDEP also set a **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)² for lead of zero. The MCLG for copper is 1.3 mg/l**.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our public water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. More information on lead in drinking water and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We recommend the following tips to keep any potential lead and copper out of the water you drink:

- Most importantly – Flushing your water is the simplest way to reduce exposure to lead. When your water has been sitting for several hours, flush the tap until the water feels cold before use.
- Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking especially when making baby formula.
- Never boil water to remove lead or copper. Boiling water for an extended time may make the lead or copper more concentrated.

For more information on lead in drinking water visit:

- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/overview-of-lead-in-massachusetts-drinking-water>
- <https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-in-drinking-water>

For more information on copper in drinking water visit:

¹ The Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

² The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

For more information on copper in drinking water visit:

- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/copper-and-your-health>
- <https://safewater.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/202346427>

MDPH Lead and Copper in Drinking Water FAQ and Quick Facts:

- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/sources-of-lead-besides-lead-paint>
- [Lead in Drinking Water FAQ \(https://www.mass.gov/media/1571266/\)](https://www.mass.gov/media/1571266/)
- [Copper in Drinking Water FAQ \(https://www.mass.gov/media/1571251/\)](https://www.mass.gov/media/1571251/)

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm>.

USEPA: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

If you have any questions regarding lead or copper in drinking water or your lead or copper sampling results, please feel free to contact: Randy Clarkson, 508-400-6681

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Duarte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Duarte

Director of Maintenance

October 23, 2018

To the Students, Families, and Staff of **Alice A. Macomber School**

During recent lead and copper sampling, some water taps at our school had lead and copper levels that exceed the Massachusetts Action Level for lead and the Massachusetts and federal Action Level for copper in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities. See sample results below. The Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water is 0.015 milligrams per liter (also known as parts per million). The Massachusetts and federal Action Level for copper in drinking water is 1.3 milligrams per liter (also known as parts per million).

We would like to inform you about our plans to reduce potential exposure to lead and copper 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 tap water. Exposure to lead is a concern because lead is a toxic metal that has a range of adverse health effects.

Copper is also not believed to be in our water source but plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain copper, resulting in an increase in the copper content in tap water. The same mechanisms that cause plumbing to contribute lead to drinking water may also contribute copper.

Copper is a necessary micronutrient and is needed in small "trace" amounts for good health but too much copper in the diet or in drinking water may cause adverse health effects. Some people who consume drinking water with copper in excess of the EPA action level may experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. However, most people are unlikely to experience health problems from exposure to modestly elevated copper levels in drinking water because the human body has a natural mechanism for maintaining the proper level of copper in it. People with Wilson's disease, children less than one year old, and individuals with liver disease cannot eliminate excess copper from their bodies as well and are more likely to experience negative health effects on the liver and kidney from short-term exposure to copper levels that exceed the EPA's action level. See the MassDEP Fact Sheet on copper and your health at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/a-thru-h/copperfs.pdf>

Sampling Results			
Date Sample Collected	Location	Lead result in mg/L	Copper results in mg/L
9/21/18	Kitchen East Sink	.010	1.75
9/21/18	Fountain Across Room 13	.001	.71
9/21/18	Fountain Near Ladies Room	.165	5.85
9/21/18	Fountain Room 8	.129	1.54
9/21/18	Art Room Sink	.001	1.45

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 and copper in the water.

To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals (including woman who are pregnant or nursing), our school is working closely and cooperatively with MassDEP and others and taking actions as follows:

What we are doing:

1. While exceeding the Action Level does not require provision of alternative drinking water sources, we have been providing bottled water and have shut down all bubblers.
2. We have removed from service all taps with lead or copper levels over the Action Level and using bottled water to cook with in the kitchen.
3. We are implementing a public information process that will include distribution of outreach material to all students, parents, teachers, staff and local officials.

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. Plumbing systems also contain copper. If you have questions about lead or copper 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.

If you have any questions on this information please contact Randy Clarkson at 508-400-6681.

Sincerely,



Mike Duarte
Director of Maintenance

Modified from EPA's "3T's for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools: Revised Technical Guidance"