



**SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION OFFICES**

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Walter J. Kappeler, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Steven J. Jakubowski, Jr.
School Business Administrator

January 23, 2023

Dear Swedesboro-Woolwich School District Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District tested our schools’ drinking water for lead and other contaminants. The sampling took place on November 2, 2021.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 160 samples taken, all but 2 tested below lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 ug/l [ppb]). Follow up flush sampling was completed and analyzed for the two failed samples. Each of the two outlets with elevated levels easily cleared the flush sample.

Remedial Measures

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, we will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 micrograms per liter (ug/L)(parts per billion [ppb]). The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 ug/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what remedial action the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

| Sample Location | First Draw Result in ug/l (ppb) | Remedial Action |
|---|--|---|
| Walter Hill School, Room 225 WHS-DW-2RM225 | 25.6 | Disconnected Outlet; Replaced Faucet |

| | | |
|--|------|---|
| Margaret C. Clifford School MCS-NS-Nurse-Sink | 20.8 | Disconnected Outlet; Replaced Faucet |
|--|------|---|

Follow-Up Flush Sampling

If initial test results reveal lead concentrations greater than 15 ug/l in a 250 mL sample for a given outlet, follow-up flush testing samples are analyzed to pinpoint where lead is getting into the drinking water so that appropriate corrective measures can be taken (i.e. fixtures or interior plumbing). In our district, the two failed outlets were not being used, which appears to be the reason the first sample exceeded the action level. Results of the follow-up flush samples are below:

| Sample Location | First Draw Result in ug/l (ppb) | Remedial Action |
|--|--|---|
| Walter Hill School, Room 225 WHS-DW-2RM225 | 1.2 | Disconnected Outlet; Replaced Faucet |
| Margaret C. Clifford School MCS-NS-Nurse-Sink | 0.86 | Disconnected Outlet; Replaced Faucet |

Despite the positive results from the follow up flush draw, the district will keep these outlets disconnected until the faucet is replaced.

Information Regarding Lead in Drinking Water 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 the body. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delay 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 more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our 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 systems. 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, and other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.swedesboro-woowlich.com. For more information, about water quality in our schools, contact Josh Stow, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds at (856) 241-1552 extension 1077.

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, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your healthcare providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter J. Kappeler, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'W'.

Dr. Walter J. Kappeler, Jr., Superintendent

Swedesboro Woolwich School District