



Clinton Public School
10 School Street
Clinton, New Jersey 08809
Main Office: 908-735-8512
Business Office: 908-735-4460
Fax: 908-735-5895

Seth Cohen Ed.D, Superintendent/Principal
scohen@cpsnj.org

Bernadette Wang, Business Administrator
bwang@cpsnj.org

Jacqueline Evans-Turner, Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator
jturner@cpsnj.org

Jenine Kastner Ed.D, Director of Special Services
jkastner@cpsnj.org

October 26, 2021

Dear Members of the Clinton Public School Community:

On July 13, 2016, the State Board of Education adopted regulations regarding testing for lead in drinking water in public schools throughout New Jersey. Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for Clinton Public School. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets on April 19, 2017. During the initial 2017 test, 4 samples tested above the action level for lead in drinking water. Those areas were fitted with inline filters and in subsequent testing of lead levels were well below the action level for lead in drinking water 15 µg/l [ppb]. On October 15, 2021, we again completed testing for lead in drinking water. Of the 42 samples taken, 7 tested above the action level for lead in drinking water 15 µg/l [ppb].

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action the Clinton Glen Gardner School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations. With the exception of the kitchen sprayer, all of the bubblers listed below have not been used since the start of the pandemic in March of 2019. Our action, after consultation with our Board Architect/Engineer, is to address the impacted bubblers by removing them. We do not need them and have not used them in 19 months. Over the past several years, we have installed bottle fillers throughout the building and will increase the number of locations. All of the older hallway water fountains will be replaced with bottle fillers. The replacement process is beginning now. We will work towards ensuring all potable sources will have a filter, regardless of test results. That work will begin immediately.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l [ppb]	Remedial Action
Room 36 Bubbler	31.9 µg/l [ppb]	Has not been used since March 2019. Sign posted "DO NOT DRINK". Bubbler to be disabled and removed.

Kitchen Spray 1 used for dish soaking prior to dishwasher use.	29.7 µg/l [ppb]	Immediately taken out of service and plumbing disconnected. Filter to be installed and new faucet.
Room 11 Hallway Water Fountain	17.2 µg/l [ppb]	Has not been used since March 2019. Sign posted “DO NOT DRINK”. To be replaced with bottle filler with inline filter.
Room 8	29.5 µg/l [ppb]	Has not been used since March 2019. Sign posted “DO NOT DRINK”. Bubbler to be disabled and removed.
Room 19	47.1 µg/l [ppb]	Has not been used since March 2019. Sign posted “DO NOT DRINK”. Bubbler to be disabled and removed.
Room 26	279 µg/l [ppb]	Has not been used since March 2019. Sign posted “DO NOT DRINK”. Bubbler to be disabled and removed
Room 27	21.3 µg/l [ppb]	Has not been used since March 2019. Sign posted “DO NOT DRINK”. Bubbler to be disabled and removed

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the Clinton Public school will implement immediate remedial measures as stated above for the drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY” sign will be posted.

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 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. 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 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.cpsnj.org.

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 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.

If you have any additional questions, please call at 908-735 8512 x 603 or email me at scohen@cpsnj.org.

Sincerely,

Seth E. Cohen