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July 6, 2018

Dear Staff, Parents and Legal Guardians:

In April the State Legislature passed a new regulation requiring schools in Maryland to perform lead testing on every receptacle in the building that is used for consumption. If you have visited our building you may have observed signs in all of the bathrooms throughout the building noting these sinks are to be used only for sanitary purposes but not for drinking. These sinks were not tested. The remaining sinks, water fountains and icemakers were tested for a total of 24 receptacles.

On May 24, 2018 Janice and I conducted a first draw sample on the 24 receptacles. One of these receptacles came back with an elevated level of lead. The receptacle was located in a room currently used to store physical therapy equipment. The sink in this room has not been used for several years as it was blocked by the physical therapy equipment. The reading was 61.2 ppb. Safe drinking water cannot exceed 20.5 ppb. The laboratory that I used felt this occurred because the water had sat so long in the pipes.

I ran the water for about one hour on June 11, 2018 and performed a flush sample on June 12, 2018. The second sample came back at 3.9 ppb. I am required to notify each of you about the results of the lead testing if any of the receptacles came back with an elevated lead level as per this new regulation. I am also required to provide you with facts about the health risks posed by drinking water with elevated lead levels. I have attached this information for your reading. I would like to reinforce that the receptacle in question has not been used by staff or students for several years as it was in a room used for storage.

Schools will be required to repeat these tests every three years going forward to ensure the safety of your children. You will find information about the receptacle that had an elevated level of lead posted on our website as required by this regulation even though the second test was well within safe limits. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 314-5000 ext. 103.

Sincerely,

Gary Vosburg, Director of Education

Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S) **Delrey School**

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 *[insert date(s)]*, *[insert number]* lead water samples were collected from *[insert name of school]*. Of these lead water samples, *[insert number]* 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:

[insert lead results] parts per billion (ppb) *[insert corresponding tap location for each lead result]*.

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

[Insert information regarding the actions the facility has taken since learning of the lead water sample(s) that exceeded the AL – e.g. shut down drinking water outlet within 24 hours and collected a follow-up sample.]

NEXT STEPS

[Insert information regarding the next steps the facility will take to remediate the drinking water outlet(s) with lead levels exceeding the AL – e.g. fixture replacement, Point of Use filtration device added to fixture, etc.]

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 [*insert name of school/contact person*] at [*insert telephone number*]. 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.