

RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Rutherford Pub
April 11, 2017, F

Rooted in Excellence

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April 11, 2017

Dear School Parents, Guardians and Staff of the Rutherford School District:

Rutherford Public Schools is committed to protecting the health of its students and staff. As required by the new NJ Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead by July 13, 2017. Drinking water sampling will be conducted at the following facilities on April 18th, 2017:

- Sylvan Kindergarten Center
- Lincoln School
- Washington School
- Pierrepont School
- Rutherford High School
- UnionSchool

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. 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.

Lead is rarely found in the source water; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines).

Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be “lead free”. The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as “lead free”. However, prior to January 4, 2014, “lead free” allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

What Actions We Are Taking?

The Rutherford School District is in the process of developing a comprehensive Lead Sampling Plan for all of its facilities. As part of that Plan, a plumbing profile of the schools will identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or lead service lines are present.

Once complete, the Lead Sampling Plan will be available for review upon request at the District's Building and Grounds office.

The District will post the results and a notification letter from our sampling on our website at www.rutherfordschools.org. The letter will inform you if any of the drinking water outlets had a result greater than the Lead Action Level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [PPB]). The results will be used to assist in the prioritization of remedial actions and any future water testing for lead in accordance with the School District's Lead Sampling Plan.

Rutherford Public Schools will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the Lead Action Level. This will include turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes only. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" signs will be posted.

How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact **Anthony Paterno**, Director of Buildings & Grounds at **201-438-7675 ext. 4117**. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html>.

Sincerely,


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John J. Hurley
Superintendent of Schools