A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS and STAFF

North Syracuse Junior High School

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

May 1, 2024

The North Syracuse Central School District is in the process of completing regularly scheduled testing of its drinking water in accordance with updated, more stringent New York State standards for Lead in Water. According to the law, all school districts and BOCES must conduct testing of school potable water sources in occupied buildings. When the law was updated in 2021, testing standards for public schools became the strictest in the country. Consequently, districts and BOCES are expecting to find some outlets with levels that require remediation.

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter (µg/L), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

The district began its current round of testing in January 2024 and as part of updated state requirements, the district will be sending correspondence to families and community members and posting results online each time new test results are received.

Fixtures at North Syracuse Junior High School were tested on February 6 and 7, 2024. The chart below identifies fixtures marked for remediation. All other fixtures produced samples within acceptable levels. Click here to view the complete test results for North Syracuse Junior High School.

NSJH Samples Collected on 2/6/2024 and 2/7/2024		
Outlet Location	**Fixture Type**	**Sample Results (ppb)**
Conference Room 104	Kitchen Sink	570
Room 128	Classroom Sink	6.3
Room 132	Classroom Sink	7.4
Room 226	Kitchen Sink B	5.3
Room 224	Kitchen Sink A	30
Room 224	Kitchen Sink B	10

Room 222A	Kitchen Sink	33
Room 218	Kitchen Sink C	9.4
Room 218	Kitchen Sink D	6.3
Hallway outside room 212	Bottle Filling Station	330
Hallway outside room 312	Bottle Filling Station	110
Hallway outside room 312	Drinking Fountain Bubbler	330

What is “first draw” testing of school drinking water for lead?

The “on-again, off-again” nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This “first draw” sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What is being done in response to the results?

NSJH Remedial Action Plan for Outlets Exceeding 5 ppb Lead:

Outlet ID	Outlet Location	Result (ppb)	Action taken
NSJH-14	Conference Room 104 Sink	570	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.
NSJH-20	Room 128 Classroom Sink	6.3	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.
NSJH-21	Room 132 Classroom Sink	7.4	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.
NSJH-40	Room 226 Kitchen Sink B	5.3	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.

NSJH-43	Room 224 Kitchen Sink A	30	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.
NSJH-44	Room 224 Kitchen Sink B	10	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.
NSJH-48	Room 222A Kitchen Sink	33	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.
NSJH-51	Room 218 Kitchen Sink C	9.4	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.
NSJH-52	Room 218 Kitchen Sink D	6.3	Posted sign stating handwashing only. Replaced aerator and retested. If aerator does not result in passing results, faucet will be replaced.
NSJH-53	Hallway outside 212 Bottle Filler	330	Removed from service until repairs are made. Replaced filter and retested. The drinking fountain bubbler at this station is within the acceptable level and there are two other bottle fill and drinking fountain stations on the second floor.
NSJH-61	Hallway outside 312 Bottle Filler	110	Removed from service until repairs are made. Replaced filter and retested. There are two other bottle fill and drinking fountain stations on the third floor.
NSJH-62	Hallway outside 312 Drinking Fountain	330	Removed from service until repairs are made. Replace filter and retest. There are two other bottle fill and drinking fountain stations on the third floor.

What are the health effects of lead?’

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposure as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building’s plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors, including but not limited to, a child’s age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil, and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child’s blood lead level, parents should discuss their child’s health history with their child’s physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results, please contact Matthew Erwin, Director of Facilities, at (315) 218-2109, or go to our District's Water Testing Webpage

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html

For information about NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":

http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/ (English)

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education_materials/index.htm (available in ten languages).