

BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 428 - Hopkins Building, Burlington, NJ 08016, 609-387-3955

www.burltwpsch.org

Mary Ann Bell, *Superintendent*
mbell@burltwpsch.org

Nicholas Bice, *Business Administrator*
nbice@burltwpsch.org

February 27, 2025

Dear Fountain Woods Elementary School Families,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. In July 2016, the State Board of Education adopted regulations regarding testing for lead in drinking water in public schools throughout New Jersey. The regulations were amended and readopted in August 2020. The amendment requires all covered entities to test for lead in drinking water every three years beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, the Burlington Township School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead in January 2025. The purpose of the testing was to identify and address any drinking water location above the EPA action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). A drinking water location is an outlet that is designed or expected to be used for water consumption. These included, but were not limited to, classroom water fountains or sinks, water coolers, sinks in nurse's offices, faculty break rooms, and locations in kitchens used for food preparation. Bathroom, custodial, art room, and science room sinks were not sampled, as these are not expected nor designed to be used for water consumption.

Water was allowed to stay motionless in each facility for a minimum of eight hours prior to testing. After this time of inactivity, an "initial draw" sample was collected from the first water to come out of the outlet. After the initial draw sample was collected, water was allowed to flush for 30 seconds, and a second "flush" sample was collected. The purpose of the flush sample is to help determine if contamination does exist, whether it is originating from the outlet itself or from the building's plumbing. The results of the testing were presented to and accepted by the Board of Education at the first meeting after test results were received on February 26, 2025.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Fountain Woods Elementary School immediately implemented remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). This included turning off the outlet unless it was determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign was posted.

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 Burlington Township School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets at the Fountain Woods Elementary School. Of the 32 samples taken, all but two tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

Both of the outlets referred to above were from non-drinking water sources. They have been designated as non-potable water sources and have been properly labeled.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what remedial action Burlington Township School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Other Relevant Information	Remedial Action
Room M105 Sink ID# FW-01-SO-A124A	21.6	The initial draw was 21.6 ppb and a flush draw the same day was ND. This outlet had a similar result in previous testing in November 2021.	Sink has been designated as non-potable and has been properly labeled.
Prep Room D403 Sink ID# FW-02-SO-PREP1	24.2	The initial draw was 24.2 ppb and a flush draw the same day was 4.97 ppb. This outlet had a similar result in previous testing in November 2021.	Sink has been designated as non-potable and has been properly labeled.

At this time, permanent solutions for each of these locations are being evaluated. The District will notify staff, students, and parents as these solutions are implemented.

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

Test results are available for inspection in our central office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A

copy of the test results are also available on our [website](#)*. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact us at (609) 387-3955.

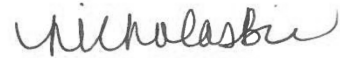
For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at **www.epa.gov/lead**, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare provider.

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

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Bell
Superintendent of Schools



Nicholas Bice
School Business Administrator

Enclosures:

[FWS Lead Testing Results from January 18, 2025](#)

*<https://sites.google.com/burltwpsch.org/business-office-and-operations/operations-departments/facilities-management-environmental-testing-results>