

GET LEAD OUT OF SCHOOL DRINKING WATER ACT REPORT

The Valley Park School District, dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of our students, staff, and community, has conducted water source testing in accordance with the new Missouri state law named "Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act."

Specifically, every water source used for drinking and food preparation across our school premises underwent sampling and testing to assess lead concentration levels against the mandated action threshold of five parts per billion (5 ppb), equivalent to 5 micrograms per liter. Sinks in areas deemed unsuitable have been tagged as non-potable by the school district, encompassing spaces like science labs, industrial arts rooms, bathrooms, and custodial closets.

Missouri's required 5 ppb standard surpasses the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended action level of 15 ppb, reflecting a stricter regulation.

Although the state law sets a deadline of August 1, 2024, for all PK-12 schools receiving state funding to finish testing at all drinking water and food preparation outlets, Valley Park took swift action during the past summer in line with our dedication to safeguarding our students, staff, and community, completing the testing of our facilities.

Below are the results of our tests, broken down by building:

| Building | Fixtures Tested | # above 5 ppb |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| High School | 17 | 2 |
| District Office | 2 | 0 |
| Early ChildHood | 9 | 0 |
| Elementary School | 47 | 0 |
| Middle School | 15 | 1 |

***All of the drinking/food prep fixtures that were above 5 ppb have been replaced.**

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS AND TAKING ACTION:

Valley Park High School addressed the issue by replacing and retesting the two failing fixtures. Additionally, fixtures in science labs, industrial art areas, and bathrooms have been recognized as non-potable water sources and marked with appropriate non-potable notice stickers.

Valley Park Middle School addressed the issue by replacing and retesting the failed fixture. Additionally, fixtures in science labs, industrial art areas, and bathrooms have been recognized as non-potable water sources and marked with appropriate non-potable notice stickers.

At Valley Park Elementary School, Early ChildHood, and District Office. All fixtures in science labs, industrial art areas, and bathrooms have been recognized as non-potable water sources and marked with appropriate non-potable notice stickers.

FURTHER TESTING

Following the state statute, we've carried out additional testing in all areas previously found to be below standards. The results of this follow-up testing have been made available. The district is committed to the safety of our students, staff, and community, and has made extensive efforts to eliminate every non-compliant source.

For inquiries about specific lead sample results at particular outlets and the actions taken, or if you have concerns, please reach out via email to Director of Facilities, Josh Ekstrom, at jekstrom@vpschools.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Lead is rarely found in source water like groundwater or rivers. Typically, lead in water is the result of corrosion, or the wearing away, of lead-containing materials in the water distribution system, such as pipes and faucets. Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be “lead-free.” The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25% lead to be labeled as “lead-free.” While smaller amounts of lead are used in newer water distribution systems, corrosion still occurs. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. In such circumstances, the first water drawn from a tap in the morning typically contains the highest traces of lead.

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person’s total lead exposure. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person’s total exposure to lead. According to the EPA (www.epa.gov), children of any age are susceptible to the effects of lead, with children under the age of six being most at risk. While effects may vary in scope and severity, the EPA reports that lead might lead to behavior and learning problems, lower IQ, hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that the impact of lead exposure on children can be impacted by a variety of factors, including age, nutrition, the source of exposure, length of time of the exposure, and other underlying health conditions. Elevated levels of lead in pregnant women can also be harmful, possibly severely, to both babies and mothers. Your physician or healthcare provider can provide additional information regarding the effects of lead exposure and, with respect to one’s health history, whether testing for lead should be considered.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

- [Official statute language](#)
- [Basic information about lead in drinking water](#)
- [Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](#)
- [St. Louis County Department of Health lead information](#)