

11/11/2024

Rockaway Borough School District
Thomas Jefferson Middle School
95 East Main Street Rockaway NJ 07866

Dear Rockaway Borough Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, in accordance with the Department of Education regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4, Rockaway Borough School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Rockaway Borough School District will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be 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 Rockaway Borough School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 15 outlets sampled, 3 first draw samples tested above the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]). Of the 3 follow-up flush samples collected, 1 tested above the lead action level.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead with the associated first draw and follow-up flush sample lead levels, as well as what temporary remedial action Rockaway Borough School District has taken or plans to take to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Follow-up flush Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
1 st Floor Bubbler outside main office RJMS-1FL-B-O/s main office	15.6	7.64	Immediately shutdown outlet, although a different fountain was already being utilized since the onset of COVID. <i>The fountain was already not being used before testing.</i>

1 st Floor Home Ec Lab RJMS-1FL-S	121	31.6	Discontinued use for consumption and posted hand washing only and not safe to drink signage
Faculty Room	16.7	9.98	Added Lead Filter. The filter was already in place but not allowed during testing. It was allowed for remediation. (The filter was always in place).

Summary of Actions Taken/Remediation

- 1. Immediately end use of each drinking water outlet where any sample result (first draw or flush sample) exceeded the lead action level;*
- 2. A water fountain was eliminated, the faculty sink has not safe for drinking and handwashing only signs and a lead filter was installed on the faculty sink.*
- 3. Other Water Fountains are being utilized and there is a sufficient amount of safe water fountains throughout the building.*

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 because 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

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.rockboro.org For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Michael Klein at the Rockaway borough School District at 973-627-8600

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 health care 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,



Anthony Grieco
Superintendent of Schools