

August 25, 2021

Dear Oakland Community,

Our district is committed to protecting our students & staff. Following all NJ Department of Education regulations for per amendments to N.J.A.C 6A:26 Educational Facilities the district has conducted testing of our schools' drinking water for lead. The regulation requires sampling of all drinking water outlets in the Facilities, including those used for consumption, food/beverage preparation, and any other location from which students or faculty/staff may reasonably consume water. The regulation also requires immediate remedial measures for drinking water outlets that exceed the action level of 15 ppb (parts per billion). Outlets will be corrected until they comply with the regulation, or are taken out of service. If outlets are to remain for non-drinking purposes visible signage will be posted stating, "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY". Results for each Facility are posted separately under a tab for each School. Additionally, our District submits an annual statement of assurance that lead in drinking water sampling and notification of results were completed per N.J.A.C 6A:26.

Health Effects of Lead:

Lead has long been recognized as a harmful environmental pollutant. In late 1991, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services called lead the "number one environmental threat to the health of children in the United States." There are many ways in which humans are exposed to lead: through air, drinking water, food, contaminated soil, deteriorating paint, and dust.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants. It seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like 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 household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains (service lines). 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 to 8.0%. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women.

For More Information:

Per NJ DOE regulation, a copy of our district's test results are available on our website at: www.oaklandschoolsnj.org and in our central office. Results are available for inspection by the public upon request. For more information about the district's water quality in our schools contact Mr. Joe Tumminia of the Buildings and Grounds Department at tumminia@oaklandschoolsnj.org.

For more information on how to reduce your child's exposure to lead, visit the EPA's Website at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

Annette M. Wells
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Oakland Board of Education