

# Montgomery County Public Schools Lead in Drinking Water Testing Report

Gaithersburg Middle School  
2 Teachers Way  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Report Date: February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## LEAD IN DRINKING WATER SAMPLE RESULTS SUMMARY

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is required to remediate outlets where lead in drinking water concentrations exceed the Montgomery County Action Level (AL) of 5 parts per billion (ppb). A summary of the lead in water initial samples collected by SaLUT are presented in the table below.

Sampling Date	1/30/2020
# of Outlets Tested	26
# of Outlets $\geq$ 5 ppb	0

## NEXT STEPS

If an initial sample exceeds the AL (5 ppb), the outlet will be immediately shut-down, a follow-up sample collected, and a remedial plan of action developed for this outlet. No additional sampling or remedial actions are required for schools where all initial samples are below the AL.

## HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

## **SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD**

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, cosmetics, exposure in the work place and from certain hobbies. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

### **TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:**

1. Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.

*\*Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.*

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1. For additional information, please contact Brian Mullikin, Environmental Team Leader, at 240.740.2324 or [brian\\_a\\_mullikin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:brian_a_mullikin@mcpsmd.org).
2. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).
3. If you are concerned about exposure, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

## Flushing Strategy for Reopening Schools

The purpose of flushing throughout the entire building is to replace all water inside the building piping with fresh water. Remember to:

- Visually inspect mechanical equipment, such as cooling towers, boilers, pumps, chillers, backflow preventers, etc. for physical integrity and general function. Report leaks or other maintenance needs to your service center.
- Fill all drain traps with water if they have dried out by slowly pouring water down the drain of all outlets (i.e. kitchen open drains) and all floor drains.

### Flushing Steps After Extended School Closure:

1. Begin nearest to where water enters the building and move toward the farthest outlet.
2. Flushing should occur in sections (by floor or room).
3. Minimize splash water.
4. Flush cold water for a minimum of five minutes. Then flush the hot water.
5. Continue flushing until hot water achieves a steady temperature.
6. Repeat step 4 (cold) and step 5 (hot) until water has been flushed through all outlets (e.g. bottle filling stations, coolers, bubblers, showers, toilets, and sink faucets).
7. Remember to flush emergency safety devices, such as eye-wash stations and safety showers (secondary schools only).
8. Remove all old ice from all ice machines.
9. DO NOT drink water during flushing activities.
10. If your facility has bottle filling stations, submit a work order to inform your service center that the building has been flushed. Request the service center to replace the filters.

### Daily Flushing Protocol

Once the extended school closure flushing protocol has been completed, remember to flush bottle filling stations every morning for **five minutes**. Until further notice, bubblers and coolers should remain turned off.

### Instructions for Cleaning Bottled Water Dispenser Stations

1. Unplug water dispenser.
2. Wipe dispenser body, bottle receptacle, tank, and faucets with a cloth and warm, soapy water. Rinse with clean water and wipe dry. Never use scouring pads, steel wool, or scouring powder.
3. Clean the dispenser drip tray regularly. To reduce water spotting, the tray should be emptied, cleaned with mild soap, and wiped dry.
4. Vacuum the condenser tubes located on the back of the dispenser.

For more information regarding this process, please contact:

Mr. Brian A. Mullikin, environmental team leader

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