ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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FACT SHEET

on

Lead Exposures from Drinking Water at Enfield Elementary School

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Enfield Elementary School Water Testing

The purpose of this fact sheet is to share information regarding lead and copper sampling results for the Enfield Elementary School water system. Samples were collected on December 21st, 2016 in accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule need for 6 month testing. The results for two of the samples exceeded the lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). See the following chart:

Enfield Elementary	Copper (mg/L)	Lead (mg/L)
Sample#11-Classroom sink in Room B9	0.13	0.0028
Sample#12-Classroom sink in Room 29	0.15	0.01
Sample#13-Classroom sink in Room 34	0.14	0.0074
Sample#14-Bathroom sink in Room 25	0.11	0.0025
Sample#15- Library sink	0.12	0.01
Sample#16-Bathroom sink in Room A9	0.16	0.018
Sample#17-Classroom sink in Room A11	0.15	0.0092
Sample#18-Classroom sink in Room A12	0.14	0.0079
Sample#19-Classroom sink in Room A13	0.14	0.0044
Sample#20-Art room sink in Room A17	0.14	0.38

Next Steps

Because of the elevated results, state and federal regulations require Enfield Elementary School to conduct lead testing again in 6 months. We are awaiting the results from additional testing conducted under the Governor's *Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Regulation*. We will compare those with these tests and create a plan to correct the elevated results. The Tompkins County Health Department and the Ithaca City School District will be monitoring future sample results to determine if additional action is needed.

As you know, we are not consuming this water and will continue to provide certified water until a plan of action is created, approved and implemented. This plan will be a collaborative plan between the Tompkins County Health Department, LaBella Associates and ICSD.

General Information on Lead

Lead is regulated in New York State public drinking water supplies through the NYS State Sanitary Code (SSC) and under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) was enacted by the EPA to minimize the corrosion of lead and copper in water supplied by public water systems. The LCR established an action level of 15 ppb for lead. When more than 10 percent of the samples from a given set of samples exceed the action level, the regulations require that some form of action must be taken, such as public education, water monitoring, water treatment, or lead service line replacement.

Lead can be found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain and pewter, and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and for people who have had substantial exposure, it can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination—like dirt and dust—that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

Lead Exposure Risk for Children

Young children (i.e., under six years of age) and pregnant women are more sensitive than other adults to the health effects from lead exposure. Parents should minimize their child's overall exposure to lead. Paint is by far the primary and most significant source of lead exposure for most children. Although drinking water can contribute to a child's lead burden; it is not likely to cause a substantial increase. Lead in drinking water is primarily a concern for infants whose total daily consumption is formula and juice made with tap water. Parents that use their home water supplies for formula or juice preparation

for infants should use cold water for food and beverage preparation and run taps for 30 – 60 seconds after water has been standing in pipes for 6 hours or more. Lead is not absorbed through skin during activities such as hand washing, bathing or showering.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that 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). Corrosion is accelerated by water characteristics such as low pH (acidity), low mineral content and high temperature. Corrosion is a continuous process that is affected by the amount of time that water is in contact with plumbing pipes. For example, in a school's water systems, lead levels may increase when water in the plumbing system stands overnight, over the weekend, and throughout term breaks when there are no classes. In 1986, Congress banned the use of solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%. In 2014, the lead content restriction was reduced from 8.0% to 0.25%.

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