



"Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings." C. A. Danielson

From the Office of
Denise L. Clemons
Superintendent

October 20, 2016

To the Students, Families, and Staff of Gardner Public Schools:

During recent sampling for lead and copper, some water traps at our schools had lead levels that exceeded the Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities. See sample results below. The Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water is 0.015 milligrams per liter (also known as parts per million).

We would like to inform you about our plans to reduce potential exposure to lead in drinking water at our schools. Lead is not believed to be in our water source but plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain lead, resulting in an increase in the lead content in tap water. Exposure to lead is a concern because lead is a toxic metal that has a range of adverse health effects.

Sampling Results			
School	Date Sample Collected	Location	Lead Results in mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	Nurse's Office Bubblers	0.043 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	1 st Floor, Room 7	0.018 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	1 st Floor, Room 7	0.032 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	1 st Floor, Room 5	0.022 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	1 st Floor, Special Education Room	0.040 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	Pre-K, Room 2	0.026 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	1 st Floor, Room 1	0.019 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	1 st Floor, Room 10	0.024 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	1 st Floor, Room 12	0.023 mg/L
Waterford Street School	9/21/2016	2 nd Floor, Room 29	0.029 mg/L
Elm Street School	9/20/2016	1 st Floor Hallway, Nurse's Room	0.027 mg/L
Elm Street School	9/20/2016	Kitchen Island Faucet	0.018 mg/L
Gardner Middle School	9/17/2016	Kitchen Kettle, Food – Cold	0.047 mg/L
Gardner High School	9/17/2016	3-Bay Sink on Right Side of Kitchen	0.018 mg/L
Gardner High School	9/17/2016	Bubbler in Girls Locker Room	0.025 mg/L
Gardner High School	9/17/2016	Nurse's Office Main Faucet	0.072 mg/L
Gardner High School	9/17/2016	Nurse's Office Exam Room Faucet	0.15 mg/L
Gardner High School	9/17/2016	2 nd Floor Hallway Bubblers, C Stairway	0.45 mg/L
Gardner High School	9/17/2016	2 nd Floor Hallway Bubblers, C Stairway	7.6 mg/L
Gardner High School	9/17/2016	3 rd Floor Hallway Bubblers, A Stairway	0.037 mg/L
Gardner Academy	9/20/2016	Nurse's Office Sink	0.022 mg/L
Gardner Academy	9/20/2016	Café/Classroom	0.042 mg/L

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Helen Mae Sauter School	9/20/2016	Basement Hallway Water Cooler	0.018 mg/L
Helen Mae Sauter School	9/20/2016	2 nd Floor Hallway Bubbler	1.5 mg/L

The administration takes these results very seriously and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. The following information describes the steps we are taking to address the issues of lead in the water.

To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals (including women who are pregnant or nursing), our schools are working closely and cooperatively with MassDEP and others and taking action as follows:

1. We have removed from service all taps with lead levels over the Action Level.
2. We have posted public information that includes outreach material to all students, parents, teachers, staff and local officials on the District website.
3. We will develop a sampling plan to conduct testing at outlets (faucets, water bubblers, etc.) where students and staff get water for drinking, beverage preparation and cooking.
4. We are implementing a flushing and water usage plan to safeguard against lead exposure from drinking water in the schools at outlets that are found to be above the Action Level for lead. This includes the daily flushing of water bubblers and/or faucets at sinks and the limitation of water consumption to cold-water faucets for food and beverage preparation.
5. We will undertake efforts to determine the cause of this lead Action Level exceedance and evaluate the adequacy of our existing corrosion control system. We will develop and put into place a corrective action plan as quickly as possible following additional testing and consultation.
6. Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead exposure from drinking water at our schools.

A Reminder: The water systems at the schools are not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. If you have questions about lead or copper in your home's water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.

If you have any questions on this information, please contact Robert O'Brien, Director of Facilities, at 978-632-1603, ext. 2045.

Sincerely,

Denise L. Clemons, M. Ed
 Superintendent of Gardner Public Schools

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