

CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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August 25, 2016

Clifton Public School District
 Clifton High School
 333 Colfax Avenue
 Clifton, New Jersey 07013

Dear Clifton High School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, the Clifton Public School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the NJ Department of Education regulations, Clifton High School will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the Lead 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 guidance provided by the EPA, we completed a limited plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the Clifton Public School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the sixty-six (66) samples collected from Clifton High School, all but eleven (11) tested below the Lead Action Level.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 PPB for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action the Clifton Public School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
South 1 C Across from S-105 (Left)	103	Immediately took fixture out of service
K6 Right Side A Cafe	25.4	Immediately took fixture out of service
K5 Café Right Side A	152	Immediately took fixture out of service
Water Fountain near Main Office	38.4	Immediately took fixture out of service
Kitchen Kettle	18.8	Immediately took fixture out of service
Sink near Service Door K5	34.1	Immediately took fixture out of service
Home Economics Sink #2	740	Immediately took fixture out of

		service
Home Economics Sink #3	2950	Immediately took fixture out of service
Home Economics Sink #4	807	Immediately took fixture out of service
Home Economics Sink #5	585	Immediately took fixture out of service
Home Economics Sink #6	270	Immediately took fixture out of service
N-1-A Across N-116	19.5	Immediately took fixture out of service

Sites that tested positive will not be utilized at all until we determine an acceptable solution. There are sufficient water resources in the building that are available for all students.

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 as a result 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 business office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.clifton.k12.nj.us. For more information

about water quality in our schools, contact Albert Marchione, Director of Buildings and Grounds at 973-470-2276.

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,

Richard Tardalo
Superintendent of Schools