



Jersey City Public Schools
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Dr. Marcia V. Lyles
Superintendent of Schools

August 2017

RE: Lead In Water Testing Results @ McNair High School No. 56

Dear School Community,

Jersey City Public Schools remains committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. We have been testing drinking water in our schools since 2008 and we have continued testing and responding to all instances where sinks or fountains have been found to exceed recommended EPA levels. In such cases our responses have included turning off drinking water outlets, installing new drinking water fixtures with lead-free components, installing water treatment filters, and providing bottled water as an alternative drinking water source.

More recently, in response to the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) emergency rulemaking last year, the District has completed a new round of *comprehensive, District-wide testing*. These recent results indicate that certain drinking water points in your school, indicated in the attached table, exceed the action levels for lead content. We have responded by taking the actions identified above as appropriate for each drinking water point. In addition, the District will continue to provide bottled water as an alternative drinking water source at your school.

The District retained an environmental engineering company, Tectonic Engineering & Surveying Consultants P.C. (Tectonic) to assist with complying with the NJDOE rules. Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within our District. Through this effort, we identified and tested our drinking water and food preparation outlets.

Test Results

The attached table shows the locations where drinking water "points of use" (POUs) were tested that returned results above the 15 PPB lead action level adopted by the NJDOE. This criterion adopted by the NJDOE is not a health-based standard.

Health Effects of Lead

High concentrations of lead in drinking water can cause and contribute to health problems. Elevated concentrations of lead in the body can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with red blood cell production. Pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age represent susceptible populations with regard to exposures. At very high levels, acute symptoms can present. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be chronically affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

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. USEPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Everyone in Jersey City receives their water the same way, from the same source, whether they are a school or a residence. The City of Jersey City owns the Jersey City Water System (JCWS) that supplies the municipality. The JCWS is a public water system. The Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA) operates the sewer and water systems of Jersey City; and the JCMUA has subcontracted the operation of the JCWS to a private entity: Suez Water (formerly United Water Jersey City).

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is atypical among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs in higher concentrations 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.

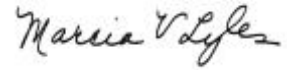
In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems 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 elevated levels of lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents; and are also available on our website at www.icboe.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Kevin O'Reilly, Director of the Maintenance Department, 201-915-6348 or Facilitiesquery@icboe.org. 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia V. Lyles".

Dr. Marcia V. Lyles
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: NJ Department of Education
David Morris, LSRP, Tectonic
K. O'Reilly
J. Chester

Table 2 - Potable Water Testing
 Points of Use in Building
 McNair High School No. 56
 123 Coles Street, Jersey City, NJ

Sample ID	Tectonic Field Number	Laboratory ID	Building	Floor	Outlet Type	Sampling Date	Lead Result (µg/L)	NJDOE AL
056-1.1-H-(122)-FB1-000	88	JC42334-9	Main Building	1st Floor	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	932.0	15
056-1.B-H-(B6)-FB2-000	29	JC42334-15	Main Building	Basement	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	25.2	15
056-1.B-H-(B5)-FB2-000	47	JC42334-17	Main Building	Basement	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	40.9	15
056-1.B-H-(B6)-FB1-000	28	JC42334-19	Main Building	Basement	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	165.0	15
056-1.B-H-(B5)-FB1-000	46	JC42334-21	Main Building	Basement	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	17.2	15
056-1.4-H-(412)-FB2-000	214	JC42334-29	Main Building	4th Floor	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	25.9	15
056-1.4-H-(412)-FB1-000	213	JC42334-33	Main Building	4th Floor	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	19.0	15
056-1.2-O-(200)-WCF-000	110	JC42334-50	Main Building	2nd Floor	Water Faucet	4/27/2017	17.3	15
056-1.2-H-(215)-FB2-000	95	JC42334-52	Main Building	2nd Floor	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	2020.0	15
056-1.2-H-(215)-FB1-000	94	JC42334-54	Main Building	2nd Floor	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	133.0	15
056-1.3-H-(311)-FB2-000	123	JC42334-56	Main Building	3rd Floor	Water Fountain Bubbler	4/27/2017	29.3	15

Notes:

Sample concentrations in negative (see below) are exceeding the NJDOE criterion:

>15.4

Qualifiers

<RL

Not detected above method detection limits / reporting limits

AL

New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Action Level

µg/L

micro-grams per Liter, Parts Per Billion or PPB