

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gregory J. Cappello, Esq., Superintendent of Schools
Shawnequa Carvalho, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for HR & CAO
Gene Mercoli, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
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Kimberly Seifring, Ed.D., Director of Special Education & Related Services



675 Grove Road · West Deptford, New Jersey 08066-1999
Phone# (856) 848-4300 · Fax# (856) 845-5743
www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us

June 30, 2022

Dear Parents, Staff, Guardians,

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, West Deptford School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, West Deptford School District will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the 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 instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within West Deptford School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 137 samples taken throughout the district, 126 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

PRIDE, PASSION, AND A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

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The table below identifies the drinking water outlet that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action West Deptford School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
West Deptford High School Sink in Boiler Room ID# 1-WDHS-POE	25.2	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
West Deptford High School Fountain Right – Hallway Near Room 4 ID# 32-WDHS-POE	40.5	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
West Deptford Middle School Fountain Right – Hallway Near Room 5 ID# 8-WDMS-WC	102	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
West Deptford Middle School Fountain Left – Hallway Near Room 5 ID# 9-WDMS-WC	148	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
West Deptford Middle School Fountain Left – Hallway Near Room C6	64.3	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.

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ID# 8-WDMS-WC		
West Deptford Middle School Fountain Right – Hallway Near Gym	109	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
ID# 31-WDMS-WC		
Oakview Elementary School Sink in Room 6	37.2	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
ID# 22-OV-SNK		
Red Bank Elementary School Bubbler in Room 20	18.1	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
ID# 12-RB-WC		
Green Fields Elementary School Bubbler in Room 103	17.3	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
ID# 11-GF-WC		
Green Fields Elementary School Bubbler in Room 119	19.2	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
ID# 16-GF-WC		
Green Fields Elementary School Bubbler in Room 121	22.5	Discontinue water use. Further investigation and confirmation testing will be conducted.
ID# 19-GF-WC		

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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.

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

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can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.wdschools.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Walter Berglund at the Facilities Office, (856) 848-4300, Ext. 3217.

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,

Gregory J. Cappello

Superintendent of Schools