



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

KELLY M. LYMAN, SUPERINTENDENT

Audrey P. Beck Building
Four South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268
Phone: (860) 429-3350

November 13, 2018

Dear Annie E. Vinton School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, Connecticut Water tests our schools' drinking water for lead.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Connecticut Water tested our drinking water for lead. Of the five water samples we tested, one showed a lead level above 15 parts per billion (ppb). When we found the elevated lead, the faucet was immediately taken out of service and replaced with a lead-free faucet. The outlet with an elevated lead level is located in a room that was no longer used as a classroom and saw infrequent use. During the previous four monitoring periods, lead results at this sampling point were all below the *Action Level* (15 parts per billion) established under the Federal EPA lead testing program and ranged from non-detect to 1 ppb.

Additional precautionary measures are being taken throughout the school. Following long periods of stagnation such as holidays and vacations, we are flushing drinking fountains, sinks, and kitchen faucets to ensure a fresh water supply. New water samples have already been gathered and results are due within a week. Should elevated lead levels be found again, you will receive another notice.

Attached please find a copy of the public lead notice. You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at the school district's central office, which is open Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. For more information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

Kelly Lyman
Superintendent of Schools

Encl.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Important Information About Your Drinking Water

Attachment A

LEAD ACTION LEVEL EXCEEDANCE

Date: November 13, 2018

PWS ID: CT 0781253

To: Annie Vinton Community

From: Kelly M. Lyman, Superintendent of Schools

Compliance Period: July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2018

Our public water system recently exceeded the lead drinking water action level. As our customers, you have a right-to-know-what-happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. The results of routine water quality samples indicate a lead level of .106mg/L. This level exceeds the 90th percentile lead action level of 0.015 mg/L.

What does this mean?

Action level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, signals a need for treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 0.015 mg/l. Public Water Systems are required to act if the sample results are greater than 0.015 mg/l in 10 percent or more of the samples collected for compliance.

90th percentile: This means that no more than 10 percent of the lead samples collected can be above the lead action level.

What is being done?

- Increased sampling: Sampling for lead will be conducted every 6 months so we can closely monitor the lead levels in our water system.
- Public Education: We are issuing public education materials to ensure all our customers know about the water system 90th percentile values exceeding the action level, the health effects of lead, the sources of lead in drinking water and actions you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. See attached "IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER" document for more information.
- Source water monitoring: We will conduct monitoring of our source water to ensure that lead is not entering our water system from the source water.
- Corrosion Control: We will be preparing and submitting our recommended optimal corrosion control treatment proposal and, if needed, a source water treatment proposal to the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section for review and approval.

We expect to return to compliance or resolve the situation by Nov. 21, 2018

If you have any questions please contact Bill Trietch at 860.429.3322 or by mail at: 4 S. Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place and distributing copies by hand or mail.

Annie E. Vinton

CT0781253

Important Information About Lead In Your Drinking Water

Annie E. Vinton found elevated levels of lead in drinking water at one sample location.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water. Although most homes have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some homes in the community have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L).

What Happened? What is being done?

One sample collected on June 20, 2018 showed an elevated level of lead at 0.106 mg/L. This faucet has been taken out of service. It has been noted that this room is no longer used as a classroom but an overflow room.

The confirmation first-draw sample collected July 2, 2018 at the same location showed elevated level of lead at 0.783 mg/L. It is important to note that school has been out of session, leaving a longer period of stagnation. The testing showed reduced lead levels in the fully flushed sample at this same location with a result of 0.0058 mg/L. The faucet and plumbing has been replaced and additional samples will be collected. Annie E. Vinton will be on increased monitoring for lead.

This brochure explains the simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation please call 860-664-6168.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. If you are concerned about lead exposure at this site, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead can also be found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

Drinking water is also a possible source of lead exposure. Most sources of drinking water have no lead or very low levels of lead. 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 your house to the water main (service lines). 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 to 8.0%. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead. EPA estimates that 10 to 20

percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

Despite our best efforts mentioned earlier to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your own home, have your drinking water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Testing the water is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. For more information on having your water tested, please call 860-664-6168.

If a water test indicates that the drinking water drawn from a tap in your home contains lead above 15 ppb, then you can take the following precautions:

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets
- **Use Cold Water for Cooking and Preparing Baby Formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Clean and flush faucets.** Periodically remove the faucet strainers from all taps and flush out any debris that has accumulated over time by running the water for 3 to 5 minutes.
- **Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." Visit the Web site at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.
- **Have an electrician check your wiring.** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be great. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Home treatment devices are limited in that each unit treats only the water that flows from the faucet to which it is connected, and all of the devices require periodic maintenance and your replacement. Devices such as reverse osmosis systems or distillers can effectively remove lead from your drinking water. Some activated carbon filters may reduce lead levels at the tap, however all lead reduction claims should be investigated. Be sure to check the actual performance of a specific home treatment device before and after installing the unit.
- **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or health care provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

For more information on lead in drinking water visit:

EPA at www.epa.gov/safewater/schools or contact your health care provider