

Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED WATER SAMPLE RESULT

Edgewood Middle School

ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On January 26 and February 28, 2019, two hundred sixty-nine (269) lead water samples were collected from Edgewood Middle School. Of these lead water samples, **sixty-two** had levels of lead exceeding the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the samples collected at Edgewood Middle School were as follows:

3180 parts per billion (ppb) **Drinking fountain, Band Room 27**
30.5 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 13 sink**
22.9 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 65 left sink**
28.6 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 65, second left sink**
56 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 65, right sink**
42.1 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 64, second left sink**
89.3 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 64, fourth right sink**
210 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 64, third right sink**
102 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 64, second right sink**
146 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 64, right sink**
91.5 parts per billion (ppb) **S21 sink, orange pod**
88.2 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 56, right sink**
232 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 56, third right sink**
1460 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 54, left sink**
49.1 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 54, second left sink**
49.1 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 54, Teacher's sink**
241 parts per billion (ppb) **S20 sink, between 53 and 54**
23.7 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 53, left sink**
21.3 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 53, second left sink**
20.9 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 53, third left sink**
1440 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 53, right sink**
4240 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 53, second right sink**
872 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 53, third right sink**
301 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 53, fourth right sink**
71.1 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 53, Teacher's sink**
40.6 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 42, fourth right sink**
172 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 43 sink**
545 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 50, left sink**
26.7 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 50, second left sink**
22.1 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 50, third left sink**
54.8 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 50, fourth left sink**
67.5 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 50, second right sink**
23.4 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 50, third right sink**
39.4 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 51, Teacher's sink**
207 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 51, fourth right sink**
1530 parts per billion (ppb) **Science closet sink between 50 and 51**
26.6 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 9 drinking fountain**
28.8 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 8, Teacher's sink**
2450 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 7 sink, right**

26.1 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 6, left sink**
95 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 6, second left sink**
22 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 6, third left sink**
456 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 6, back wall, right sink**
43.7 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 6, fourth right sink**
23.9 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 6, third right sink**
109 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 6, second right sink**
39.7 parts per billion (ppb) **Room between Room 2 and 4 sink**
155 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 66, left sink**
49.6 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 66, second left sink**
105 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 66, third left sink**
56.2 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 66, fourth left sink**
20.6 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 66, right sink**
31.7 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 66, Teacher's sink**
167 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, left sink**
166 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, second left sink**
1590 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, third left sink**
73.2 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, fourth left sink**
35.3 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, fourth right sink**
36.7 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, third right sink**
26 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, second right sink**
22.4 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, right sink**
74.6 parts per billion (ppb) **Room 67, Teacher's sink**

ACTION LEVEL (AL)

The AL is 20 ppb for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation.

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. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. 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.

SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN

Results were received on July 30, 2019. Handwash only signs were placed at the sinks and drinking fountains were taken out of service.

NEXT STEPS

At this time our remedial action is to use these sinks for hand washing only and to permanently disconnect the drinking fountains.

TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:

1. Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.

Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. For additional information, please contact **Patti Jo Beard, Harford County Public Schools**, at **410-638-4088**. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead. If you are concerned about exposure; contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.