



The Board of Education of Worcester County

6270 Worcester Highway
Newark, Maryland 21841
www.worcesterk12.org
Telephone: (410) 632-5000
Fax: (410) 632-0364

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March 29, 2019

NOTICE OF LEAD IN WATER OUTLETS TESTING RESULTS POCOMOKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Maryland law (Chapter 386, 2017) requires all occupied public and nonpublic schools, serving children in prekindergarten to grade 12, that receive drinking water from a public utility to test for the presence of lead in all drinking water outlets.

Worcester County Public Schools began the water testing process in January 2019. On February 7th and 9th, 2019, Maryland Environmental Service collected water samples from sixty-eight (68) water outlets at Pocomoke Elementary School.

On March 15, 2019, the testing laboratory, ALS Environmental, forwarded water sample test results to Maryland Environmental Service for the sixty-eight (68) Pocomoke Elementary School samples taken on February 7th and 9th, 2019.

A total of nine water outlets tested above the compliance action level of 20.5 ppb (parts per billion). Listed below are the locations of the nine outlets.

1. Kitchen Handwash sink in Kitchen Dishwash Area (162.0 ppb)
2. Sink in Administration Area - Principal (33 ppb)
3. Sink in Staff Workroom (35.7 ppb)
4. Sink in Conference Room (44.2 ppb)
5. Classroom sink in Grade 2 Commons Area Fountain – Left Side (168 ppb)
6. Classroom sink in Classroom E2 Fountain - Front Room (30.6 ppb)
7. Classroom sink in Grade 2 Commons Area Spigot – Left Side (4,300 ppb)
8. Classroom sink in Classroom E2 Spigot- Front Room (29.9 ppb)
9. Classroom sink in Grade 3 Commons Area Fountain – Right Side (120 ppb)

Please be advised that these water testing results DO NOT mean that there are elevated levels of lead in the drinking water servicing Pocomoke Elementary School students and staff. The results indicate that the actual water outlets (sink faucets) in the nine locations identified initially tested above the 20.5 ppb actionable level.

In compliance with Maryland Department of the Environment regulations concerning lead in drinking water, Worcester County Public Schools has taken the following actions:

1. Within 24 hours of receipt of test results, close access to each of the nine outlets.
Completed 3/15/19.



2. Remove the existing outlet and replace with a new outlet.
Completed 3/20/19.
3. Within 5 school days, conduct a follow-up lead test sampling at the new outlet.
Completed 3/21/19 – 3/22/19.
4. Follow-up lead test sampling:
 - a. Results in levels less than 20.5 ppb, no further action required.
 - i. 3 of the 9 re-tested water outlets fell into this category – sinks in Staff Workroom and Classroom E2 and water fountain in Classroom E2.
 - b. Results in levels greater than 20.5 ppb, install signage indicating water outlet is to be used for hand-washing only or remove outlet from service.
 - i. 6 of the 9 re-tested water outlets fell into this category.
 - ii. Water fountains in Grade 2 Commons area and Grade 3 Commons area have been removed.
 - iii. Hand Washing Only signs have been installed at the remaining outlets.
5. Within 10 school days, notify parent or legal guardian of each student attending the school of the school's receipt of the laboratory report.
Completed 3/29/19.
6. Within 10 school days, notify school teachers and other employees of the school's receipt of the laboratory report.
Completed 3/29/19.
7. Within 30 school days of the school's receipt of the laboratory report, notice shall be posted on the school web site.
Completed 3/29/19.

You may access additional information regarding the lead testing program at the Maryland Department of the Environment website:

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Pages/Testing-For-Lead-In-Drinking-Water-Public-and-Nonpublic-Schools.aspx

For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website: www.epa.gov/lead

If you are concerned about your child's exposure to lead, please contact your local health department or health care provider to find out how to get your child tested for lead.