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March 22, 2019

NOTICE OF ELEVATED LEVEL OF LEAD IN WATER OUTLETS: **SHOWELL 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 January 29th and 30th, 2019, Maryland Environmental Service collected water samples from fifty-nine water outlets at Showell Elementary School.

On March 7, 2019, the testing laboratory, ALS Environmental, forwarded water sample test results to Maryland Environmental Service for the fifty-nine Showell Elementary School samples taken on January 29th and 30th, 2019.

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

1. Kitchen sink in Kitchen Serving Area – left side sink (28.7 ppb)
2. Sink in Administration Area Teacher Workroom #1 (177 ppb)
3. Sink in Teacher Workroom #2 (48.7 ppb)

Please be advised that these water testing results DO NOT mean that there are elevated levels of lead in the drinking water servicing Showell Elementary School students and staff. The results indicate that the actual water outlets (sink faucets) in the three locations identified above are providing elevated lead results. None of the tested water fountain outlets throughout the school were discovered to have elevated levels of lead.

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 seven outlets.
Completed 3/8/19.
2. Remove the existing outlet and replace with a new outlet.
Completed 3/11/19.
3. Within 5 school days, conduct a follow-up lead test sampling at the new outlet.
Completed 3/12/19.
4. Follow-up lead test sampling:
 - a. Results in levels less than 20.5 ppb, no further action required.



- i. 1 of the 3 re-tested water outlets fell in this category – sink in Kitchen Serving Area.
 - b. Results in levels greater than 20.5 ppb, install signage indicating water outlet is to be used for hand-washing only.
 - i. 2 of the 3 re-tested water outlets fell in this category.
 - ii. Hand Washing Only signs have been installed at these 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 3/21/19.
6. Within 10 school days, notify school teachers and other employees of the school's receipt of the laboratory report.
Completed 3/21/19.
7. Within 30 school days of the school's receipt of the laboratory report, notice shall be posted on the school web site.
Completed 3/22/19.

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.