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Dear Parents and Staff,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be following regulations from the NJDEP, NJDOE, and District Policy, Readington Township School District tested our four schools' drinking water for lead contamination on August 13, 2021

In accordance with the regulations and policy, the Readington Township School District implemented immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ (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" signs 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 the Readington Township School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 73 samples taken, all but 1 sample tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ for lead, the actual lead level, and the temporary and/or remedial action The Readington Township School District will take to reduce the levels of lead at these locations. Take note that Three Bridges, Holland Brook, and Whitehouse Station Schools have all passed testing with no action needed at this time.

We are working on solutions to remediate the sample location at Readington Middle School which failed testing. Only after appropriate remedial measures have been completed and follow up testing conducted and deemed safe, will the location be placed back into service.

Sample Location:	First Draw Result in ug/l (ppb)	Current and Remedial Action:
<p>Readington Middle School Sample # RMS-1-KIT-SP-P</p> <p>**This location is a kitchen faucet used to fill a steam kettle that is currently not used for food preparation.</p>	<p>16.5 (ppb)</p>	<p>Current Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinued use of this faucet location and put the faucet out of service. • There are alternate water sources for use if needed. • Additional testing of the sample location to determine the possible source of contamination. <p>Remediation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediation may include plumbing piping repairs. • If needed in the future, the faucet fixture will be replaced, and retested before being returned to service.

In addition to the above remediation plans, we plan to evaluate the remaining results of testing water outlets below the 15 ug/l (ppb) action level and take proactive steps as deemed appropriate to protect the community and staff from lead contamination.

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.

For More Information

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 can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The complete testing report will be available on our website at www.readington.k12.nj.us. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact our Facilities Manager Donald Race at 908-534-2859.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools