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October 19, 2017

Dear Essex County Vocational Technical School District Community:

Our School system is committed to protecting student, teacher and staff health. To protect our community, the Essex County School District conducted testing of our schools' drinking water for lead.

Why Test School Drinking Water for 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 old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and development 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. To protect public health, the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and day care facilities test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlets at levels exceeding the 15 parts per billion (ppb) limit, EPA recommends taking action to reduce lead levels.

Is Our Schools' Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools' water is safe. Essex County School District performed tests of our schools' drinking water for lead in 2017 accordingly with NJDEP and EPA regulations. Of the 93 outlets sampled in 4 of our facilities, only 11 showed lead levels above the EPA 15 ppb limit. In other words, 88% of the water outlets tested were under the lead threshold. The following are the outlets with exceedances in the initial round of sampling:

Newark Tech High School: 7 exceedances in initial draw, 1 exceedance in flush draw:

No.	Sample ID	Location
1	01-POE-IN-105-F	1 st floor POE – faucet in room 105
2	01-HA-BY-105-DW	1 st floor drinking water fountain in hallway by room 105
3	01-OF-BY-125-FP	1 st floor food prep faucet by room 125
4	01-MO-IN-125-F	1 st floor faucet in medical office room 125
5	01-HA-BY-127-DW	1 st floor drinking water fountain in hallway by room 127
6	03-KI-FP (D)	3 rd floor kitchen food prep faucet
7	04-HA-BY-429-DW	4 th floor drinking water fountain in hallway by room 429

Bloomfield Tech High School: 3 exceedances in initial draw, 1 exceedance in flush draw:

No.	Sample ID	Location
1	01-KI-BY-CF-FP (B)	1 st floor food prep faucet in kitchen by cafeteria
2	02-TL-BY-GYM-FP	2 nd floor food prep faucet in teacher's lounge by the gym
3	04-HA-BY-RM43-DW	4 th floor drinking water fountain in hallway by room 43

West Caldwell Tech: 24 samples, 1 exceedance in initial draw, 0 exceedances in flush draw:

No.	Sample ID	Location
1	01-KI-IN-208-F (F)	1 st floor faucet in kitchen room 208

All outlets with lead levels above the EPA threshold were immediately isolated, whilst remediation measures were underway. On completion of remediation measures, the outlets were re-tested. The remediation measures were successful at all but the following fixtures:

NEWARK TECH HIGH SCHOOL	
Outlet Code	Location
01-OF-BY-125-FP	1st Floor Food Prep Outlet in Office by Room 125
01-HA-BY-127-DW	1st Floor Drinking Water Fountain in Hallway by Room 127


BLOOMFIELD TECH HIGH SCHOOL	
Outlet Code	Location
02-TL-BY-GYM-FP	2nd Floor Food Prep outlet in Teachers' Lounge

All three outlets with lead levels above the EPA and NJDEP 15 ppb threshold in the post remediation confirmatory sampling were decommissioned and put permanently out of service, hence warranting 100% remediation for lead issues in all 4 of our facilities.

How Can I Learn More?

You can see a copy of all our water testing results at the school district's administrative office, which is open Monday to Friday (from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and on our website at essextech.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Bruce Scrivo at 973-412-2258. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,



Dr. James M. Pedersen
Superintendent of Schools