



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

"Every Child's Success is Our Mission"

Ph: 413-772-1310 / Fax: 413-772-1379

Jordana B. Harper, Superintendent of Schools

March 14, 2017

Dear Greenfield Public School Families, Students, and Staff,

This letter is to share important information with all families, students, and staff regarding water quality testing recently conducted in the Greenfield Public Schools, and actions taken to ensure the highest health and safety standards for all students and staff.

Greenfield Public Schools voluntarily opted to participate in a statewide program to test both lead and copper in our schools' drinking water. The testing simulates a "worst case scenario" and 200x more samples were collected than are required. This testing was conducted in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Public Health (DPH). Testing was conducted on weekends in January with results recently released, in March.

The Action Level for Copper is 1.3 (mg/L) or 1.3 parts per million (ppm) and the Action Level for Lead is 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or 15 parts per billion (ppb).

Out of all 1,018 samples taken across all seven (7) school sites, over 97% tested safely on the first draw. Approximately 2.5% indicated results above Action Levels for Lead and/or Copper on the first draw. There were no samples above action levels at Greenfield Middle School or Greenfield High School. Of the 568 samples drawn at the remaining five buildings (Federal Street, Newton School, Four Corners School, North Parish, and Green River School), fixtures were identified above action levels in samples at 25 sites. (These test results indicate the following findings: 11 copper results above action levels, and 16 lead samples.) Of these, only 2 sample sites were above the lead action level after the pipes were flushed. These 2 were immediately disconnected.

It is important to note that many of these locations were not common sources of drinking water, including faucet taps in staff rooms not used by students. In addition, the testing simulates the "worst case" scenario – a test drawn over the weekend after water stands in the fixtures and mineral build-up can accumulate.

The Greenfield DPW has conducted an analysis and determined that the source of the lead and/or copper is the metal fixtures at these sample sites. The quality of the drinking water remains high and is not affected. Results taken after "flushing" the fixtures are in the safe range. A copy of the water results is available in the Superintendent's office.

However, the administration takes these results very seriously, and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. In coordination with Mass DPH, DEP, Greenfield Public Works, Greenfield Health Department, upon receiving and interpreting the results, the ***Greenfield Public Schools have taken proactive measures to ensure student safety and are working quickly to share the information with you.***



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To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals, Greenfield Public Schools have taken the following immediate actions as part of our corrective actions:

1. All service taps with lead and/or copper levels over the Action Levels on either first or second draw were immediately removed from service.
2. Working with the Town of Greenfield and DPW, new lead- and copper-free fixtures are in the process of being replaced for all 25 fixtures that tested above Action Levels.
3. We have begun implementing a flushing and water usage plan to safeguard against lead and/or copper exposure from drinking water in the school at outlets that were found to be above the MassDEP Action Level for lead and/or copper. This includes the daily flushing of water fountains and/or faucets at sinks before consumption by students or staff.

A Reminder: The water system in the schools is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and especially fixtures, can contain lead and/or copper pipes or solder that can allow lead and/or copper to leach into the tap water. If you have questions about lead and/or copper in your home’s water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the DPW annually.

We are confident that the above actions are in the best interest of our students’ safety and that of all staff. We remain committed to the health and safety of our students as our foremost goal.

If you have any questions about this information please contact at Don Ouellette at the Greenfield DPW.

Respectfully,

Four handwritten signatures in blue ink are shown above their respective names and titles. The signatures are: Jordana B. Harper, William Martin, Don Ouellette, and Alan Schmidt.

Jordana B. Harper Superintendent	William Martin, Mayor Chair, School Committee	Don Ouellette Greenfield DPW	Alan Schmidt Facilities Manager
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