



Mount Olive Township School District

"Children are our first priority"

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August 8, 2017

Dear Mount Olive Middle School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Mount Olive Township Schools tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Mount Olive Middle School will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ (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" sign 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 Mount Olive district. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 75 samples taken, all but 11 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Mount Olive has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Mount Olive Middle School

ID	Location	Outlet Type	Result (ppb)
MOM-SF-DISH1T	Dish Wash Rm-1 Tub	Sink Faucet	37.8
MOM-SF-NOOK	Kitchen-Nook/Cut Out	Sink Faucet	65.5
MOM-FO-K	Kitchen-Kettle	Faucet Outlet	21.2
MOM-ST-K	Kitchen	Steamer Unit	45.2

MOM-SFS-KST	Kitchen by Steamer Wall	Sink Faucet w/ Sprayer	21.8
MOM-SF-K1T-LONG	Kitchen-1 Tub Long Prep	Sink Faucet	33.5
MOM-SF-SERVE-NOOK	Serving Area (Nook/Cut Out)	Sink Faucet	47.6
MOM-SF-A145.2	A145 Snack Shack-1 Tub Prep	Sink Faucet	16.3
MOM-SF-C157	Rm C157	Sink Faucet	26.2
MOM-SF-FACULTY2	2 nd Floor Faculty Room across F117	Sink Faucet	28.6
MOM-SFS-DISH	Dish Wash Rm	Sink Faucet w/ Sprayer	152

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. and are also available on our website at www.mtoliveboe.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Dave Corso at the Mount Olive Board of Education Building, 973-691-4008

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.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

District takes action to address water quality

This summer, the district is addressing water quality issues in order to protect the health of students, teachers, and staff members.

In July, water samples taken from every water fountain, faucet, and other water outlet in the district's six schools were tested for lead. The **majority of the 500+ samples contained lead amounts within the EPA guideline**; of the 140 samples above the EPA guideline, just a handful were from kitchen equipment, and other sources that provide water intended for consumption. Most of the positive samples came from sink faucets, not intended as a drinking supply.

The district buildings and grounds department is in the process of installing new aerators and hardware where needed to remediate the most pressing issues, and new tests will be conducted within days. It is expected that all recently discovered issues will be remediated according to state regulation.

Before the start of school on September 5, any water outlet that possesses a lead level above the EPA guideline of 15 parts per billion will be labeled with a sign that reads "Do Not Drink – Safe For Handwashing Only."

To ensure that students and staff have access to clean and safe drinking water, this past spring the district replaced the electrically-operated water coolers in all schools with new models that contain carbon filters which purify the water of lead and other contaminants. The coolers display alert signs when the filters need to be replaced.