January 25, 2022

Buildings and Grounds Department

Ninth Grade Academy

500 Perry Street

Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Dear Ninth Grade Academy Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting the health and safety of every student, teacher, and staff member in our community. In service of that goal and to comply with United States Department of Education regulations, Trenton Public Schools engaged an Environmental Consulting Firm to test our school’s drinking waterfor the presence of lead.

Following instructions provided in Technical Guidance Documents developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile of each building in the Trenton Public School District. Through this effort, we identified all drinking water and food preparation outlets present in each building. The Ninth Grade Academy Plumbing Profile revealed the presence of fifteen (15) drinking water outlets throughout the school. Water samples were collected from each identified outlet and analyzed for the presence of lead. Of the fifteen (15) outlets sampled, analysis revealed that one (1) outlet exhibited lead levels above the Action Level established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for lead in drinking water of 15 micrograms per liter (µg/l).

The table below summarizes the analytical results from the outlet(s) found to exceed the Action Level and the remedial action undertaken by Trenton Public Schools to reduce the levels of lead at this location.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ninth Grade Academy**  **500 Perry Street Trenton, New Jersey 08618** | | | |
| **Sample Location** | **First Draw Result** | **Second Draw Result** | **Remedial Action** |
| Point of Entry in Pump Room 011 | 28.5 | 39.2 | Inspect the service line entering the building for the presence of lead containing components. Where identified, replace lead components with lead-free products. |
| All results listed in µg/l unless otherwise noted. | | | |

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Ninth Grade Academy will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). Immediate remedial measures may include disabling the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain operational for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY” sign will be posted at the outlet.

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 are more susceptible to lead 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. The results 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.trentonk12.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Mr. Dwayne Mosley at the Buildings and Grounds Department 609 656-4862.

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.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Earle

Superintendent of Schools