

East Brunswick Public Schools

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Irwin Elementary School
75 Racetrack Road
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Dear Irwin Elementary School Community,

The East Brunswick Public School District is committed to protecting the health of students, employees, and community members who visit our schools. The District has complied with the testing requirements for lead in school drinking water.

In accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education regulations, the District will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15.5 parts per billion (ppb). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined that the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. Accordingly, all sources found to contain action levels have been taken out of service.

Testing Results

Pursuant to the instructions provided in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's technical guidance, the District completed a plumbing profile for each building within the East Brunswick Public School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the **28** samples taken, **all** tested at or below the lead action level of 15.5 ppb established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for lead in drinking water.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested greater than 15.5 ppb for lead, the actual lead level, and the temporary remedial action the District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

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 six 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 the 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 adversely affect 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 six. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead. Click [here](#) to view "Drinking Water Facts" sheet published by the New Jersey Department of Health.

For More Information

The test results are available on the District website at www.ebnet.org through the "Lead in Water Testing Results" quick link located on the left side of the web page.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

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

Yours truly,

Bernardo Giuliana

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C: NJDOE, Middlesex County Executive Superintendent of Schools
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