

Weekly Drinking Water Update 5.16 – 5.20

1. **We continue to conduct additional water tests to make sure that every drinking water source in every building has been tested - we have now collected nearly 4,000 water samples in approximately 40 buildings.** This will allow us to make sure every elevated drinking water source is turned off, and will help us better understand the problem so that we can solve it long term. This extensive effort is taking time, and we appreciate your patience while we make progress. Here is some information contrasting previous testing efforts with what we are doing now.

	Before March 2016	Since March 2016
Testing Method	Collected 10 samples in each building	Collecting samples from every water source in each building
Protocols for tests	Contracted out to laboratories and relied on their employees to abide by internal protocols.	Created a sampling plan approved by the Department of Environmental Protection that requires each building to let water sit dormant for at least 8 hours before testing, and to apply consistent, strict protocols across samples.
Number of samples	~10 per building - Approximately 650 total samples across 65 buildings	~100 per building – Approximately 4000 samples collected thus far across 40 buildings
Response	Remediate in places where test show elevated samples; Rely on central directives and protocols for lead mitigation.	Shut off any drinking water source that is elevated, place signage where non-drinking water sources are elevated. Bring in outside water as needed.
Result Sharing	Data not typically available to public	Test results available to public in clear format on our website: http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/drinking-water-resources/

2. **Results are now available for Priority 1 and Priority 2 buildings. Priority 2 results are generally consistent with previous 15-16 results.**

	15-16 annual sampled results	2016 comprehensive results
Priority 1 Buildings:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those buildings not previously tested 	Results n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 355 samples collected • 270 (76.1%) not elevated • 85 (23.9%) elevated
Priority 2 Buildings:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those buildings with elevated levels detected previously in 15-16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 332 samples collected • 267 (80%) not elevated • 65 (20%) elevated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3567 samples collected • 2917 (81.8%) not elevated • 650 (18.2%) elevated
Priority 3 Buildings:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those buildings with no elevated levels of lead previously tested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 325 samples collected • 325 (100%) not elevated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD – Testing began 5/7 and will likely continue into July.

School-by-school reports will be available online once they are shared with school leaders directly. In reviewing your school report, please be aware that due to stricter protocols for collecting samples and the number of samples collected, that there are outliers that may show higher results at some outlets than in previous tests. The district has gone back to analyze these outliers, and the vast majority are the result of testing water sources in parts of buildings that are generally dormant, or are associated with “first draw”

samples that greatly decrease once the water outlet has been flushed. The district will continue to review these samples, and will share all information found with school leaders.

3. **Drinking water will remain off in Priority 2 buildings until testing is complete.** These results will eventually allow the district to bring the drinking water back on in some buildings, specifically in those places where there are not elevated levels at drinking water outlets. However, the district will keep the water at all of these buildings off for the time being, until all buildings are tested, to make sure that the focus remains on completing testing and preventing exposure to any elevated levels of lead. Once all buildings are tested, the district will outline a plan to begin to use drinking water in buildings where appropriate.
4. **Results from on-site blood screenings are available.** The Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness provided optional, free blood screenings for students at school sites over 9 days during March and April. The results have been shared directly with parents, and at an aggregate level with NPS. These results show that 496 children were tested at NPS sites, and 1 child's BLL result was above the federal limit.

Public health authorities confirm that virtually all New Jersey children are tested for lead before the age of six (i.e before entering school). In 2014, [the last year data is available](#), reports show that approximately 115 Newark children below the age of 6 had blood lead levels above the federal limit. It is not confirmed whether the child with an elevated BLL result possessed this condition upon entering school or not.

If you are interested in having your child tested, please contact ...

- Students must be accompanied by an adult/guardian who has the authority to provide consent for the blood screening.
 - See the schedule below. For more options, please call the Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Center at [\(973\) 733-7613](tel:9737337613), Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.
5. **We will continue to provide all available information publicly:** In order to ensure that you have as much information as possible about our efforts, here are some permanent resources you can access to get more information:
 - **Visit our Drinking Water Resources Web Page:** We have created a stand-alone web page to serve as your primary source for information going forward. Please use the following link to access it: <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/drinking-water-resources/>
 - **Call us directly at 973-733-7333** with any questions you have about this issue

Thank you.
Newark Public Schools