

Weekly Drinking Water Update 5.23 – 5.27

For this drinking water update – we are refreshing information that we provided earlier this week, with an update in section 2 about updated Priority 2 Results.

- 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/

- Results are now available for Priority 1 and Priority 2 buildings. Priority 2 results are generally consistent with previous 15-16 results.** A summary of those results by building are available on our website at: <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/drinking-water-resources/> and individual building reports are available in the [Priority 2 Results Folder](#)

	15-16 annual sampled results	2016 comprehensive results
Priority 1 Buildings: 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: 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 2915 (81.7%) not elevated 652 (18.3%) elevated
Priority 3 Buildings: 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.

In reviewing your school report, please be aware that due to stricter protocols for collecting samples and the number of samples collected, that there may be outliers that show higher results than in previous tests. This is not cause for alarm. The district has analyzed these outliers, and nearly all are the result of testing water sources in parts of buildings that are not used, or are associated with “first draw” samples that greatly decrease once the water outlet has been flushed.

3. **Drinking water will remain off—and outside water will remain available— in your child’s school until testing is complete in all buildings across Newark Public Schools.** Once all buildings are tested, the district will outline a comprehensive plan to begin to reactivate drinking fountains and other water sources 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