

Date: 9/16/2024

West Orange Board of Education  
Buildings and Grounds  
179 Eagle Rock Ave  
West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear West Orange 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, West Orange Public Schools tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, West Orange Board of Education 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]). 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 West Orange School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 289 samples taken, all but 15 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action West Orange School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Building	Date Collected	Sample ID	Sample Location	Concentration ppb	Remediation
Gregory	7/12/2024	G-12-DF-RM 108	Room 108	37.7	Offline for remediation and retesting
Mount Pleasant	7/11/2024	MP-18-S-NR	Nurse	148	Offline for remediation and retesting
Mount Pleasant	7/11/2024	MP-7-DF-R M208	Room 208	39.9	Offline for remediation and retesting
Redwood	7/13/2024	R-17-FP2-K	Kitchen	47.4	Offline for remediation and retesting
Kelly	7/13/2024	K-1-S1-K	Kitchen	21.9	Offline for remediation and retesting
Kelly	7/13/2024	K-21-S-LMC	Media Center	34.1	Offline for remediation and retesting

Liberty	6/24/2024	LMS-35-S13-K	Kitchen	18.2	Offline for remediation and retesting
Roosevelt	7/12/2024	R-20-DFR-R M210	Room 210	15.0	Offline for remediation and retesting
Roosevelt	7/13/2024	R-31-BB-RM 305	Room 305	44.5	Offline for remediation and retesting
Roosevelt	7/12/2024	R-45-DW-K	Kitchen	49.1	Offline for remediation and retesting
St. Cloud	7/12/2024	SC-12-S1-K	Kitchen	71.0	Offline for remediation and retesting
St.Cloud	7/12/2024	SC-16-S4-K	Kitchen	28.7	Offline for remediation and retesting
High School	7/27/2024	WOHS-PF-2 FL-2200KIT-44	Pot Filler 1 Tarnoff Kitchen TB	31.4	Offline for remediation and retesting
High School	7/27/2024	WOHS-PF-2 FL-2325KIT-13	Front Pot Filler Right Kitchen 2325 PVW	22.9	Offline for remediation and retesting
High School	7/27/2024	WOHS-S-1F L-1122-86	Sink 3 Nurse Room 1122 CB	19.6	Offline for remediation and retesting

### Summary of Actions Taken

The following actions were taken regarding the West Orange Public Schools lead in school drinking water exceedances:

1. All drinking water outlets were immediately taken offline where any first draw [and/or follow-up] test result revealed lead concentrations greater than 15µg/l (ppb).
2. The West Orange Public Schools will install a filter or replace the unit with a filtered bottle filling station for drinking units that tested above 15µg/l (ppb) and then retest before placing the unit back online.
3. Alternate drinking water is being provided to students and staff of the school from other existing outlets tested below lead action levels in any test.

### 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 <https://www.woboe.org/Page/8659>. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Michael Cimmino at the Buildings and Grounds, 973-669-5400 Ext. 20580.

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](http://www.epa.gov/lead)**, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare 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,

Hayden Moore,  
Superintendent of Schools