



Matthew C. Carey
Superintendent

Clarence A. Walker
Manager of Buildings and Grounds

Re: Lead Sampling in Mercer County Special Services School District

Dear Mercer County Special Services School District Community:

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, Mercer County Special Services School District has been testing our schools' drinking water for lead.

Why Test School Drinking Water for 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 old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. Lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance in young children. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and daycare facilities test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), the EPA recommends reducing the lead.

Is Our School's Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools' water is safe. Mercer County Special Services School District is currently testing our schools' drinking water for lead. We tested 235 outlets at five school facilities and our administrative offices. Nine samples came back with exceedances.

It is important to note that sampling is still ongoing. To assist in identifying the potential source of the lead at these outlets, follow-up (flush) samples will be taken at each of the outlets, which indicated lead levels above the specified threshold. Until then, we will be isolating these outlets so that they will not be used for drinking water purposes.

Testing indicated lead at levels higher than the 15ppb threshold at the following outlets:

WWW.MCSSSD.INFO

Mercer Elementary School – 1 exceedance:

- 70-MES-132 Rm # 330 Unoccupied Classroom 46.6 ug/l

Mercer High School – 1 exceedance:

- 10-MHS-16 Classroom 121 Sink 20.3 ug/L

Joseph F. Cappello School – 1 exceedance

- 4-JFC-4 Cafeteria Prep Sink 27.2 ug/L

Alfred Reed School – 5 exceedances:

- ARS-7 Gym Office Sink 49.5 ug/l
- ARS-9 Kitchen Sink 23.9 ug/l
- ARS-10 Kitchen Sink 32.1 ug/l
- ARS-11 Kitchen Sink 85.6 ug/l
- ARS-12 Kitchen Sink 114 ug/l

(The ARS kitchen has been closed for several years and not used for any food prep.)

Regional Day School – 0 exceedances

We will collect additional flush samples from each of these outlets. If any fixtures are found to contain lead or lead components, we will replace the affected parts or plumbing. During the sampling process, we will ensure that these outlets are not used until the issue has been resolved.

****How Can I Learn More****

You can view a copy of our water testing results at the school district's website (www.mcsssd.info). For further information about water quality in our schools, please contact Clarence Walker, Manager of Buildings & Grounds, at 609-631-2126. For details about water quality and lead sampling at home, please contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Thank you,

Clarence A. Walker
Manager of Buildings and Grounds