

A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF
Mechanicville City School District
Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

On January 25th and 26th, and March 1st, 2024, Intertek PSI collected a total of 140 samples from water outlet sources for lead testing at the **Mechanicville City School District's School Facilities and Bus Garage**. Samples were sent to PACE Analytical Laboratories for testing. Those outlets with levels of lead above 5ppb and their analytical results can be viewed in the table below.

School Sample ID	Sample Location	Outlet Description	Lead Result mcg/L (ppb)
MHS-68	JR/SR High School – Teachers Room	Sink	8.0
MHS-302-1	JR/SR High School – Room 302	Sink	53.2
MHS-302-2	JR/SR High School – Room 302	Sink	89.1
MHS-302-3	JR/SR High School – Room 302	Sink	10.1
BG-S2	Bus Garage	Sink	9.4
ES-130	Elementary School – Room 405	Sink	13.5

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) were removed from service, unless the outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions. *Please note: each outlet outlined above is a sink faucet needed for handwashing, these are not drinking faucets. As a precautionary measure, we have installed filtration systems on MHS 302-1, MHS-302-2 and ES-130.*

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors, including but not limited to, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents

should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results:

Joe Manzer at (518) 664-9888 ext. 2016, or go to our school website:

<https://www.mechanicville.org/>

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

For information about NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, go to:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (available in ten languages).