



HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

379 South Branch Road • Hillsborough • NJ • 08844-3443 • (908) 431-6600 • www.hillsboroughnj.org

January 12, 2018

Dear Woodfern Elementary School 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, Hillsborough Township Public Schools retested Woodfern Elementary School's drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Woodfern Elementary School 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]).

Results of our Testing

Following the instructions provided in the technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Hillsborough Township Public Schools completed a plumbing profile for each of the schools within the district. Through this effort, drinking water and food preparation outlets in all of the district's schools were identified and tested during the Spring and Summer of 2017. However, due to subsequently identified irregularities with the initial sampling protocol, the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection advised Hillsborough Schools to resample the drinking water outlets throughout the district.

The resampling at Woodfern Elementary School took place on November 18, 2017. During the November sampling event, some of the drinking water outlets in the school could not be tested because of maintenance issues or because they were still labeled as out-of-service based on the initial Spring/Summer 2017 sampling results. In order to collect samples from these locations, the district repaired or temporarily turned on the respective outlets for sampling. On December 21, 2017, these outlets were sampled.

The lab reports indicate that none of the samples collected on December 21, 2017, exceeded the action level established by the US Department of Environmental Protection for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l). The results of the November 18, 2017, sampling event were previously communicated to the community and are posted on the district [website](http://www.hillsboroughnj.org).

The district is currently evaluating all of the sampling data as it works to develop and implement permanent remedial solutions, in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and New Jersey Department of Education guidelines, for all of the drinking water outlets that exceed the action level for lead. All outlets that were previously labeled as out-of-service due to high lead levels continued to be labeled as out-of-service and they remain out-of-service today pending a permanent remedial solution.

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 at our Building & Grounds office located at 407 Amwell Rd., Hillsborough, NJ 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 www.https.us. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Wilson Quintero, Director of Buildings & Grounds, at 908-431-6600 ext 6712 or via email at leadinfo@https.us.

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, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care 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,
Aiman Mahmoud
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Hillsborough Township Public Schools