PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

You can get there from here!

RAY BAVI, Ed.D., Interim Director of Facilities
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Superintendent

Dear Pemberton Township 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, TTI tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Pemberton Township Schools 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.

Testing Results

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 Pemberton Township Schools. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 249 samples taken, all but 11 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 Pemberton Township Schools has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

#	Sample Locations	Draw Results ug/1 (ppb)	Interim Remedial Action Taken	Basis/Follow-Up	Final Action
1	**PTHS** Room- 164 Sink	62.9	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
2	**PTHS** Room- 166 Sink	34.2	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**

3	**PTHS** B Kitchen Sink	52.3	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
4	**PTHS** Room- 131 Sink	19.5	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
5	**PTHS** Room- 230 Sink	41.3	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
6	**PTHS** Custodial Closet across from kitchn	45	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
7	**PECEC Room B-4** Classroom Sink	25.2	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
8	**PECEC Room B-8** Classroom Sink	15.1	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
9	**Denbo-Crichton - Room O-11** Classroom Sink	26.3	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
10	**Samuel Busansky School** Library Sink	61.32	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**
11	**Ft Dix Elementary** Kitchen sink	21.4	Signage posted Handwashing Only	Fixture slated for immediate replacement/retest	**Retesting slated for summer 2025**

<u>Health Effects of Lead</u>

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 facility 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 pemberton.k12.nj.us. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact 609-893-8141 ext. 1972

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.