

# Montgomery County Public Schools Lead in Drinking Water Testing Report

Blair G. Ewing Center  
14501 Avery Road  
Rockville, MD 20853

Report Date: March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## LEAD IN DRINKING WATER SAMPLE RESULTS SUMMARY

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is required to remediate outlets where lead in drinking water concentrations exceed the Montgomery County Action Level (AL) of 5 parts per billion (ppb). A summary of the lead in water initial samples collected by SaLUT are presented in the table below.

Sampling Date	3/5/2020
# of Outlets Tested	13
# of Outlets $\geq$ 5 ppb	2

## NEXT STEPS

If an initial sample exceeds the AL (5 ppb), the outlet will be immediately shut-down, a follow-up sample collected, and a remedial plan of action developed for this outlet. Due to the Stay-at-Home Order to combat the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), no follow-up samples were collected. No additional sampling or remedial actions are required for schools where all initial samples are below the AL.

## HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

## **SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD**

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, cosmetics, exposure in the work place and from certain hobbies. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

## **TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:**

1. Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.

*\*Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.*

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1. For additional information, please contact Brian Mullikin, Environmental Team Leader, at 240.740.2324 or [brian\\_a\\_mullikin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:brian_a_mullikin@mcpsmd.org).
2. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).
3. If you are concerned about exposure; contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

*Please refer to the attachment(s) for additional water sampling information.*

**Attachment(s)** A – Lead in Water Sample Results Table

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Lead in Water Sample Results Table**

## Sampling Results for Blair G. Ewing Center

Fixture Barcode	Fixture Location	Fixture Type	Initial Results (ppb)	Pass/Fail	Follow up Results (ppb)	Status
LW03772	In corridor across from Ab-1	Other	<1	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06638	In kitchen	Kitchen Sink	1.6	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06639	In kitchen	Kitchen Sink	<1	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06642	In hallway next to dining room li	Drinking Fountain	4.8	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06643	In hallway across from L1	Drinking Fountain	<1	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06644	In hallway across from M1	Drinking Fountain	<1	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06646	In computer lab M15	Classroom Combination Sink	3.4	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06647	In hallway across from gym	Drinking Fountain	<1	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06648	In classroom AB-6	Classroom Combination Sink	7.0	Fail	NC	Remediation Action Plan
LW06651	In break room AB-2	Teachers Lounge Sink	26.3	Fail	NC	Remediation Action Plan
LW06652	In hallway across from Ab-1	Drinking Fountain	<1	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06655	In hallway left of elevator upper level	Drinking Fountain	1.8	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete
LW06656	In work room RC-8 by media center ie. production room	Classroom Combination Sink	3.5	Pass	N/A	Testing Complete

NC - Not Collected (No follow-up sample collected due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Stay-at-Home Order.)



## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEAD IN DRINKING WATER TESTING 2018**

**Executive Summary:**  
**Blair G. Ewing Center**  
14501 Avery Rd.  
Rockville, MD 20853

Date of Test Report:	04/03/2018
Round of Testing:	Initial
# of Outlets Tested:	19
# of Outlets $\geq$ 20 ppb:	0
Low Value (ppb):	< 1.0
High Value (ppb):	11.0

### **Project Status**

**Initial testing complete:** All results less than 20 ppb.



April 3, 2018

Mr. Brian Mullikin  
Environmental Team Leader  
Montgomery County Public Schools  
8301 Turkey Thicket Drive  
Building A, First Floor  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

Re: Lead in Water Testing Service

Location: Blair G. Ewing Center  
14501 Avery Rd.  
Rockville, MD 20853

Dear Mr. Mullikin:

Professional Services Industries (PSI), Inc. is pleased to submit the following report to the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) for completion of initial lead in water testing at Blair G. Ewing Center, located at 14501 Avery Rd., Rockville, MD 20853.

**Scope of Services:**

PSI conducted lead in water testing at Blair G. Ewing Center in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Maryland House Bill (HB) 270. State regulation established an action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) to evaluate lead levels in school buildings, a concentration EPA recommends that schools take action to reduce lead below this action level. Maryland requires periodic testing for the presence of lead in drinking water in occupied public and nonpublic school buildings. EPA developed the 3T's (Training, Testing, and Telling) to assist schools in reducing the lead concentrations in their drinking water. More information about 3T's can be found on the EPA website.

PSI visited the site on 02/28/18 and 03/01/18 to collect samples from 19 drinking water outlets in accordance with current criteria described by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Draft Lead in Drinking Water—Public and Nonpublic Schools, Title 26, Subtitle 16 Lead, Chapter 07.

Samples were submitted to a laboratory for lead in water analysis using current US EPA methodology. The laboratory has been certified by the Maryland Department of the Environment to analyze drinking water for lead.

**Results:**

There were no results of the lead in water analysis at or above 20 parts per billion (ppb).

The lead in water sample results < 20 ppb for sample collection date 03/01/18 are shown in Attachment A.



**Discussion:**

Lead is a naturally occurring element that can be harmful to humans when ingested or inhaled, particularly to children under the age of six. Lead can adversely affect the development of children's brain potentially leading to detrimental alterations in intelligence and behavior. Lead has been historically used in plumbing, paint and other building materials. Lead is released into the environment from industrial sources and fuel combustion. Lead may also be found in consumer products (imported candy, medicines, toys, dishes, etc.).

Most lead leaches into drinking water from contact with plumbing components such as faucets and valves made of brass or lead-containing solder. The physical and chemical interaction that occurs between the plumbing and water directly contributes to the amount of lead that is released into the water. Although plumbing components installed prior to the 1990's could contain more lead than newer materials, the amount of lead in the drinking water cannot be predicted by the age of building. The purpose of this regulation is to establish a program to minimize the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water outlets at schools.

Simple steps like keeping your home clean and well-maintained will go a long way in preventing lead exposure. These steps include inspecting and maintaining all painted surfaces to prevent paint deterioration, using only cold water to prepare food and drinks, flushing water outlets used for drinking or food preparation, and cleaning around painted areas where friction can generate dust, such as doors, windows, and drawers. Wipe these areas with a wet sponge or rag to remove paint chips or dust, and wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys often.

Respectfully Submitted,

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE INDUSTRIES, INC.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nand Kaushik".

Nand Kaushik, P.E.  
Department Manager, Environmental Services  
[Nand.Kaushik@psiusa.com](mailto:Nand.Kaushik@psiusa.com)

Attachments:           A – Lead in Water Test Summary Table

# ATTACHMENT A

## Lead in Water Test Summary Table

**Contractor:** Professional Services Industries, Inc.

**Certified Laboratory:** Microbac Laboratories, Inc.

### Sample Results for Blair G. Ewing Center

Barcode ID	Room Number	Location	Location Notes	Equipment Type	Result (PPB)*	Pass/Fail	Status
LW06638		Kitchen		Faucet	2.6	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06639		Kitchen		Faucet	1.8	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06640		Kitchen		Faucet	10.1	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06641		Kitchen		Faucet	5.4	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06642		Hallway	Next To Dining Room li	Cooler	3.9	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06643		Hallway	Across From L1	Cooler	<1.0	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06644		Hallway	Across From M1	Cooler	<1.0	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06645	M17	Science		Faucet	5.2	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06647		Hallway	Across From Gym	Cooler	<1.0	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06648	AB-6	Classroom		Faucet	2.2	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06650	AB-2	Break Room		Faucet	5.6	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06651	AB-2	Break Room		Faucet	1.8	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06652		Hallway	Across From Ab-1	Cooler	11.0	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06653		Hallway	Across From U1	Cooler	2.3	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06654		Health Room		Faucet	5.6	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06655		Hallway	Left Of Elevator Upper Level	Cooler	1.2	Pass	Testing Complete
LW06656	RC-8	Work Room Media Center	Production Room	Faucet	4.4	Pass	Testing Complete
M12449		Kitchen		Faucet	8.0	Pass	Testing Complete
M12461		Hallway	Next to A 15	Cooler	4.3	Pass	Testing Complete

\*ppb = parts per billion