

March 22, 2022

Dear Members of Redland Middle School Community:

As a part of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Drinking Water Testing Program to retest the water at each school every three years, testing has been completed at your school. Test results indicate that one or more drinking water outlets contained lead concentrations at or above the Montgomery County Council and Maryland Action Level of 5 parts per billion (ppb). A detailed report is available on the MCPS Drinking Water Testing Program website at the following link:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/maintenance/services/water.aspx>.

Adhering to the Maryland Department of the Environment regulations, the outlets with elevated lead concentrations were removed from service, and a remediation plan will be implemented for these outlets. Upon completion of the remediation, the outlets will be retested to verify that remediation measures were effective. Specific remediation measures employed will be included in the Post-Remediation Follow-up Testing Report.

Additionally, this year, work is under way to ensure equitable access to safe drinking water systemwide and reduce plastic waste. Once complete, there will be at least two water bottle filling stations available at each school. The water bottle filling stations will have filters that are certified to remove lead. Your school principal can provide an update regarding the installation status.

Sources of Human Exposure to Lead

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead including lead-based paint; lead-contaminated dust or soil; some plumbing materials; certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics; exposure at the workplace; and exposure from certain hobbies. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), up 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 exposure may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

How to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

- Run cold water to flush out the 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.

- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily in hot water.
- Please note that boiling the water does not reduce lead levels.

Additional Information

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. If you are concerned about exposure, contact your healthcare provider to learn how to have your child tested for lead.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Brian A. Mullikin, team leader, Division of Sustainability and Compliance, at 240-740-2324 or via e-mail at Brian_A_Mullikin@mcpsmd.org.

Sincerely,



Lynne M. Zárate,
Director
Division of Sustainability and Compliance