

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Lakeside Elementary Has Detected High Levels of Lead

INTRODUCTION: The State Water Resource Control Board Division of Drinking Water, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Lakeside Joint School District are concerned about lead in drinking water. Some drinking water samples taken from this facility have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under Federal law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in our drinking water by March 4, 2017. This program includes corrosion control treatment, source water treatment, and public education. We are also required to replace the portion of each lead service line that we own if the line contributes lead concentrations of more than 15 ppb after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation please give us a call at (408) 354-2372. This letter explains the simple steps we are take to protect the students and staff by reducing their exposure to lead in drinking water.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD: Lead is found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery porcelain and pewter, and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination - like dirt and dust - that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

1. 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 infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead.
2. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like 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 household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains (service lines). 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 to 8.0%.
3. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

STEPS WE CAN TAKE. Steps we can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water include:

1. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet for about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.
2. Do not cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If we need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
3. The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in our drinking water. However, if you are still concerned, you may wish to use bottled water for drinking and cooking.
4. You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

California Department of Health Services, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch at (408) 620-5600 or the Santa Clara County Childhood Lead Poisoning Revention Program at (408) 992-4900 can provide you with information about the health effects of lead and how you can have your child's blood tested.

What happened? What is being done?

During our routine water testing in the Summer of 2015, lead was detected in the water above the state "action level" or allowed concentration of 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Compliance with the action level is based on the 90th percentile of the test results. Our routine water testing lead results had a 90th percentile result of 0.036 mg/L.

Lead has not been detected in the source well. The initial samples were collected from water standing in the pipes for 6-12 hours per State requirements.

What the School is doing

- Listed below are some **steps we are taking to reduce exposure to lead**:
 - ✓ **Providing bottled water for drinking.** We have provided bottled water for drinking and will continue to do so.
 - ✓ **Asking faculty and staff to NOT cook with or drink water from these sinks.**
 - ✓ **Running water to flush out lead.** We will run water from all the sinks and fountains daily before use.
 - ✓ **Investigating the fixtures and piping to determine the source of lead.** We have met with one repiping contractor, and will seek out corrosion control experts. We will submit a plan to the State prior to the March 4 2017 deadline.
 - ✓ **Performing additional water testing** We will publish the most recent test results

on our website

- ✓ **Installed a filter on the Kindergarten Sink** This is not a permanent solution. With the filter in place, the water from this sink has no detectable levels of lead. While we are continuing to investigate permanent solutions, this allows the kindergarten class to use the sink for hand washing and dishwashing.

We are investigating the possible sources of lead to see if they can be removed. We will also determine if the water can be treated to reduce its' ability to dissolve lead from plumbing components. This is known as corrosion control.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO NOTE:

- ✓ Lakeside provides bottled water for drinking in each classroom
- ✓ Human skin does not absorb lead through water. The primary source of lead exposure is through ingestion. It is safe to use the water from these sinks to wash hands.
- **This is NOT an emergency.** If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason; however, older buildings may contain lead pipes. The school's water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to the school are made of lead or contain lead solder. We are investigating the piping.

For more information

State and local government agencies that can be contacted include:

Call Susan Ady at (408) 354-2372 if you have questions or for more information. For more information on reducing lead exposure and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider

California State Water Resources Control Board at (510) 620-3474 or the Santa Clara County Health Department of Environmental Health at (408) 918-3400 can provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

This notice is being sent to you by Lakeside Elementary School Water System.

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