

THE TINTON FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
658 TINTON AVENUE
TINTON FALLS, NJ 07724
(732) 460-2400
FAX (732) 542-1158
<http://tfs.k12.nj.us>

John P. Russo
Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth W. Cole
Director of Special Services

Tamar R. Sydney-Gens
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

September 7, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

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, adopted on June 30, 2016, the Tinton Falls School District completed testing our schools' drinking water for lead, between August 24 – 26, 2016, as previously outlined in my August 22nd letter. Please know that the Tinton Falls School District exceed the NJDOE regulations requiring drinking water testing by also testing all sinks in each school.

On Tuesday afternoon, September 6th, 2016, the district received the results of the water testing for Tinton Falls Middle School. These results are listed below, along with the remedial actions taken. **Please note that each of the water outlets except one that tested above the 15 µg/l [ppb] are not drinking outlets or food preparation locations. It is important to know that per the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency, "Human skin does not absorb lead in water."**

We have now received the results of testing for Mahala F. Atchison School and Tinton Falls Middle School. We will release the results of testing for Swimming River School when they are received. We expect this in the near future.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a Lead Sample Plan for each of our buildings. Through this effort, we identified and tested all water outlets and food preparation outlets. Of the 98 samples taken at Tinton Falls Middle School, all but 11 plus the Science Lab (as outlined in the table below) 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 water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Tinton Falls School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

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Sample	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Is this a drinking source or food preparation location?
Boys Bathroom Sink Before Rm 505/508 (1 of 3 in room) (location 500-7)	25.0	No
Women's Faculty Restroom Sink across from Aux. Gym	22.2	No
Boys Bathroom Sink Near Café (1 of 3) (location 500-11)	17.5	No
Girls Bathroom Sink Near Café (1 of 4 in room) (location 500-16)	17.0	No
Faculty Restroom Sink next to Room 542	16.3	No
Classroom Sink Room 544	48.0	No
Classroom Sink Room 546	70.0	No
Classroom Sink Room 548	16.4	No
Classroom Fountain next to Sink Room 547	328	Yes
Classroom Sink Room 547	23.4	No
Classroom Sink Room 550	25.2	No
Science Lab Room 553 (16 spouts on 8 sinks in room) (locations 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,16)	32.7, 21.8, 23.4, 19.7, 69.5, 51.6, 31.1, 19.6, 35.4, 40.5, 27.2, 30.2, 26.4, 45.2, 52.5 (respectively)	No

Remedial Action and Steps to be Taken

- Per the N.J. Department of Education and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency, the recommendation is that signs be posted that state: **DO NOT DRINK. SAFE FOR HANDWASHING.** Because of the age and maturity of Middle School Students, we are following this protocol, with the exception of the one classroom fountain which has been turned off. **Again, please keep in mind that "Human skin does not absorb lead in water." According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency.**
- Each location will be re-tested as soon as possible.

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3. If these results are above acceptable levels as outlined by the NJDEP, the fixture will be replaced and the location will be re-tested.
4. All other remedial action will be taken if the levels are still above the NJDEP requirements.

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 high 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 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 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.

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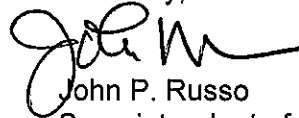
For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in the Business Office located in the Administrative Office for inspection by the public, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. The results are also available on our website at www.tfs.k12.nj.us, under the Parent Tab. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Tamar Sydney-Gens, Business Administrator, at 732-460-2406.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and health effects of lead, visit EPA's Website 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,



John P. Russo
Superintendent of Schools

JPR:fg