

# Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

*Updated in response to legislation effective as of June 1, 2021*

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)**

### ***Perry Hall Christian School***

#### **ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)**

Every 3 years, Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all potential drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On **6/13/21, 51** lead water samples were collected from ***Perry Hall Christian School***. Of these lead water samples, **11** had levels of lead exceeding the State's revised action level of 5 parts per billion (ppb) (*formerly 20 ppb; 5 ppb effective June 1, 2021*) for lead in drinking water in school buildings.

The elevated lead results from the sample(s) collected were as follows:

- [7.1] parts per billion (ppb) ***Bathroom sink in room 1***
- [5.3] parts per billion (ppb) ***Bathroom sink in boys bathroom by church office***
- [5.2] parts per billion (ppb) ***2<sup>nd</sup> Bathroom sink in boys bathroom by church office***
- [15.7] parts per billion (ppb) ***Handwashing sink in kitchen***
- [11.4] parts per billion (ppb) ***Large sink in kitchen***
- [128] parts per billion (ppb) ***Science sink in room 15 (unused all year)***
- [20.8] parts per billion (ppb) ***Science sink in room 15***
- [8.5] parts per billion (ppb) ***Science sink in room 15***
- [12.5] parts per billion (ppb) ***Science sink in room 15***
- [5.8] parts per billion (ppb) ***Girls Bathroom sink in T-Hallway***
- [6.3] parts per billion (ppb) ***Boys Bathroom sink in gym***

**PLEASE NOTE THAT NO WATER FOUNTAINS OR BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS HAVE HAD ANY TRACES OF LEAD IN THEM. As human skin does NOT absorb lead, hand washing in water with these lead levels is safe.**

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#skin>

#### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN**

*No Drinking/Handwash Only* signs have been posted at each sink where lead levels have tested above the acceptable level until we take the following next steps.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The *No Drinking/Handwash Only* signs will remain posted in the Science room permanently. We will perform remediation on all other affected plumbing systems.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information, please contact ***Kevin Krack, Director of Operations*** at **410-256-8880**. 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). 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.

## **HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water. 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 sources include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. 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.*