Harrisville Central School District

Robert Finster Superintendent/Elementary Principal
Eric Luther MS/HS Principal/Athletic Director/CSE Chair
Sheryl Tuttle-Lamb Curriculum Coordinator

October 30, 2024

Dear Harrisville Families,

I would like to reiterate our commitment to providing a safe environment for our students, which includes regular testing of water sources. As required by state law, Harrisville Central School District tested all water outlets currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking on Oct. 10, 2024. This testing must occur every three years, unless the state Commissioner of Health requires it sooner.

In 2022, the state set a stricter lead action level, reducing it from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. Any outlets exceeding this level cannot be used for drinking or cooking until follow-up testing shows the lead levels are no longer above the action level.

The testing found a total of 10 fixtures in our school building exceeding the lead action level; 4 drinking fountains and 6 sinks. The stricter state standards have resulted in more affected fixtures than usual. Access to these fixtures has been temporarily closed until remediation is complete.

To address the affected fixtures, we will:

- Install water filters on two sinks to remove lead.
- Label one additional sink as "non-potable."
- Place temporary "non-potable" signs on other affected sinks until we can remove them.
- Replace drinking fountains with filtered units.

We plan to replace impacted drinking fountains with new filtered drinking fountains and/or bottle-filling stations. These replacements are expected to be part of our 2025-26 Capital Outlay Project, if not replaced sooner. Until then, the affected drinking fountains will remain out of order.

For more information, I invite you to view the complete lead testing results and full remediation plan on our website. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly at 315-543-2707, Ext. 7, or our Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Don Snider, at 315-543-2707, Ext. 9.

Thank you for your attention and support as we work to maintain a safe learning environment for our Harrisville school community.

Cordially,

Rob Finster
Superintendent

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A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

Harrisville Central School

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

October 10, 2024

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter (µg/L), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is "first draw" testing of school drinking water for lead?

The "on-again, off-again" nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This "first draw" sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What are the results of the first draw testing?

Sample Identification # and Location	Date/Time Collected	Date/Time Analyzed	Container ID	Analyte	Results	NYSDOH Action Level	Units
Kitchen 3 bay sink	10/10/2024 05:56	10/21/2024 12:07	70317350001	Lead	1.6	5	ug/L
Kitchen Prep sink	10/10/2024 05:57	10/21/2024 12:12	70317350002	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
Kitchen wash sink	10/10/2024 05:57	10/21/2024 12:16	70317350003	Lead	1.3	5	ug/L
Ice Maker	10/10/2024 05:58	10/21/2024 16:00	70317350004	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
DF Main Hall	10/10/2024 06:00	10/21/2024 12:18	70317350005	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
Men's Bathroom	10/10/2024 06:01	10/21/2024 12:30	70317350006	Lead	4.5	5	ug/L
Women's Bathroom	10/10/2024 06:01	10/21/2024 12:24	70317350007	Lead	1.3	5	ug/L
Nurse's Wash sink	10/10/2024 06:03	10/21/2024 12:26	70317350008	Lead	3.2	5	ug/L
Exam Room sink	10/10/2024 06:03	10/21/2024 12:43	70317350009	Lead	5.9	5	ug/L
Office sink	10/10/2024 06:04	10/21/2024 12:35	70317350010	Lead	2.2	5	ug/L
DF by Little Gym	10/10/2024 06:05	10/21/2024 12:23	70317350011	Lead	11.6	5	ug/L
B108 sink	10/10/2024 06:24	10/22/2024 10:55	70317350012	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
B109 sink	10/10/2024 06:21	10/22/2024 11:47	70317350013	Lead	3.4	5	ug/L
B109 DF	10/10/2024 06:21	10/22/2024 11:09	70317350014	Lead	2.8	5	ug/L
B110 sink	10/10/2024 06:18	10/22/2024 11:11	70317350015	Lead	9.8	5	ug/L
B110 DF	10/10/2024 06:18	10/22/2024 11:13	70317350016	Lead	6.5	5	ug/L
B111 sink	10/10/2024 06:14	10/22/2024 11:14	70317350017	Lead	3.4	5	ug/L
B111 DF	10/10/2024 06:14	10/22/2024 11:16	70317350018	Lead	7.1	5	ug/L
B112 sink	10/10/2024 06:11	10/22/2024 11:20	70317350019	Lead	3.4	5	ug/L
B112 Wash sink	10/10/2024 06:11	10/22/2024 11:22	70317350020	Lead	4.7	5	ug/L
B119 sink	10/10/2024 06:08	10/22/2024 11:23	70317350021	Lead	1.2	5	ug/L
B119 Wash sink	10/10/2024 06:08	10/22/2024 11:25	70317350022	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
B113 sink	10/10/2024 06:10	10/22/2024 11:27	70317350023	Lead	2.8	5	ug/L
B113 DF	10/10/2024 06:10	10/22/2024 11:28	70317350024	Lead	3.0	5	ug/L
B114 sink	10/10/2024 06:12	10/22/2024 11:30	70317350025	Lead	2.8	5	ug/L
B114 DF	10/10/2024 06:13	10/22/2024 11:31	70317350026	Lead	8.9	5	ug/L

B115 sink	10/10/2024 06:15	10/22/2024 11:33	70317350027	Lead	2.3	5	ug/L
B115 DF	10/10/2024 06:16	10/22/2024 11:34	70317350028	Lead	4.0	5	ug/L
B116 sink	10/10/2024 06:20	10/22/2024 11:39	70317350029	Lead	2.1	5	ug/L
B116 DF	10/10/2024 06:20	10/22/2024 11:41	70317350030	Lead	2.2	5	ug/L
B117 sink	10/10/2024 06:23	10/22/2024 11:42	70317350031	Lead	4.1	5	ug/L
A122 sink	10/10/2024 06:26	10/22/2024 12:29	70317350032	Lead	2.7	5	ug/L
A121 sink	10/10/2024 06:26	10/22/2024 11:59	70317350033	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
A120 sink	10/10/2024 06:27	10/22/2024 12:01	70317350034	Lead	3.9	5	ug/L
DF Little Gym	10/10/2024 06:06	10/22/2024 12:03	70317350035	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
DF 5-6 Hall	10/10/2024 06:29	10/22/2024 12:04	70317350036	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
A119 sink	10/10/2024 06:28	10/22/2024 12:06	70317350037	Lead	4.1	5	ug/L
A108 sink	10/10/2024 06:30	10/22/2024 12:07	70317350038	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
A118 sink	10/10/2024 06:31	10/22/2024 12:09	70317350039	Lead	6.8	5	ug/L
A109A sink	10/10/2024 06:34	10/22/2024 12:10	70317350040	Lead	93.3	5	ug/L
A110 sink	10/10/2024 06:32	10/22/2024 12:12	70317350041	Lead	9.1	5	ug/L
DF by Big Gym	10/10/2024 06:35	10/22/2024 12:17	70317350042	Lead	2.6	5	ug/L
DF Girls Locker Room	10/10/2024 06:36	10/22/2024 12:18	70317350043	Lead	1.6	5	ug/L
DF F-wing Hall	10/10/2024 06:38	10/22/2024 12:20	70317350044	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
DF Boys Locker Room	10/10/2024 06:37	10/22/2024 12:21	70317350045	Lead	1.3	5	ug/L
Bottle fill DF Science Wing	10/10/2024 06:41	10/22/2024 12:23	70317350046	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
Band Room sink	10/10/2024 06:42	10/22/2024 12:24	70317350047	Lead	3.0	5	ug/L
DF Science Wing	10/10/2024 06:41	10/22/2024 12:26	70317350048	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
DF by Art Room	10/10/2024 06:44	10/22/2024 12:27	70317350049	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
Art Room sink	10/10/2024 06:45	10/22/2024 11:52	70317350050	Lead	<1.0	5	ug/L
Art Clay Room sink	10/10/2024 06:46	10/22/2024 11:05	70317350051	Lead	10.1	5	ug/L

NYSDOH Action Level for Lead In Schools of 5 ppb

What is being done in response to the results?

- Filter the water in Nurse Exam room sink and B110 classroom sink to remove lead.
- Remove drinking fountains in Classrooms B110, B111 and B114 and replace with filtered drinking fountains.
- Remove drinking fountain by Little Gym and replace with a filtered bottle filling station.
- Post non-potable signage at sinks in classrooms A109A, A110 and A118 until sinks can be removed.
- Post non-potable signage at Art Room clay sink.

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) were removed from service unless an outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposure as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building's plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors, including but not limited to, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil, and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html

For information about NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, go to:
http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":

http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/ (English)

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education_materials/index.htm (available in ten languages).