CHECKING FOR LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN FROM BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS—BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Updated May 24, 2017

Bedford Public Schools is focused on health and safety in our schools. We have conducted random samples of the drinking water at our facilities to check for lead. We wish to share this educational information about lead in drinking water as well as the results received from National Testing Laboratories, Ltd. for:

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

ROOM	STRUCTURE	LEVEL DETECTED *(parts per billion or ppb)*
Room A-18	Sink Faucet	None detected
Room A-30	Sink Faucet	None detected
Room A-34 (east)	Sink Faucet	None detected
Room A-34 (west)	Sink Faucet	None detected
Room B-6	Sink Faucet	2
Room B-10	Sink Faucet	2
Room D-5	Sink Faucet	43
Room D-5	Workstation #6	14
Room D-5	Teacher's Desk	58 ***Flush resample: 25***
D-5 Workroom	Sink Faucet	140 ***Flush resample: 82***
Room D-6	Back wall Faucet	2
Room D-6	Workstation #1	36 ***Flush resample: 29***
Room D-10	Sink Faucet	None detected
Room E-2	Sink Faucet	None detected
Room E-18a	Sink Faucet	None detected
Room E-18a	Sink Faucet	1
Room E-19	Sink Faucet	2
A Hall (outside Room A-30)	Elkay Drinking Fountain	None detected
A Hall (outside Room A-31)	Halsey Taylor Drinking Fountain	14
C Hall Restrooms	Sink Faucet	2
Cafeteria (southern fixture)	Elkay Drinking Fountain (newer)	None detected
Cafeteria (northern fixture)	Oasis Drinking Fountain	None detected
Kitchen 1	Sink Faucet	3
Kitchen 2	Sink Faucet	11
Kitchen 3	Sink Faucet	3
Kitchen 4	Sink Faucet	None detected
Kitchen (Dish Room)	Sink Faucet	None detected

RESULTS CONTINUED ON BACK...

Above 20 ppb | Above 15 ppb | Above 5 ppb | Below 5 ppb

ABOUT THE RESULTS: *The EPA sets an action level for lead in Public Water Systems (PWS) of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). This regulation would be for the supplier of our water. The EPA has a separate, recommended, action level for lead in drinking water of 20 parts per billion (ppb). This number would be for the point of consumption, for example, drinking fountains and sink faucets used for drinking and cooking. These EPA levels for lead are not a health standard. For this reason, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is recommending that schools take action to lower the lead in their drinking water if the test results are over 5 ppb, which is the bottled water standard. Bedford Public School is not legally required to test for lead, but has made the decision to voluntarily, and proactively, test and implement lead reduction actions with the goal of having direct consumption sources of water that are used for drinking and cooking to be no higher than the 5 ppb level.*

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 infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

HOW LEAD ENTERS OUR WATER

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminates 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 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%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems 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, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

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 try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

Bathing, showering, and hand washing should be safe even if the water contains lead over EPA's action level. Human skin does not absorb lead in water.

REDUCING EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:

1. FLUSH YOUR SYSTEM Let the water run from the cold water tap for about 15-30 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. Although using the toilet or shower flushes water through a portion of the plumbing, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it to drink or cook.

2. USE ONLY COLD WATER FOR COOKING AND DRINKING Do not cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it. Note that boiling water will NOT get rid of lead contamination.

3. USE BOTTLED WATER The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned, you may wish to use bottled water for drinking and cooking.

Lead Information Sources: *United States Environmental Protection Agency, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.*

Continued from front page

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL *(continued)*

ROOM	STRUCTURE	LEVEL DETECTED *(parts per billion or ppb)*
Concession Stand	Sink Faucet	6
Competitive Gym Boys' Locker Room	Wall Hung Drinking Fountain	11
Competitive Gym Boys' Locker Room	Elkay Drinking Fountain	None detected
Competitive Gym South Coaches' Office	Sink Faucet	21
Trainer's Room off Practice Gym	Sink Faucet	None detected
Practice Gym Boys' Locker Room	Elkay Drinking Fountain (newer)	None detected
Practice Gym Girls' Locker Room	Elkay Drinking Fountain	None detected
Practice Gym (east wall)	Oasis Drinking Fountain	None detected
Office Staff Work Room	Sink Faucet	None detected
Counseling Office	Sink Faucet	None detected
Media Center Office	Sink Faucet	3
Health Room	Ice Machine	None detected
Kitchen	Ice Machine	None Detected
Trainer's Room	Ice Machine	None Detected

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CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

We have taken the following steps to correct or minimize lead exposure in the drinking water by:

- Staff and students have been instructed not to use any of the highlighted fixtures for drinking water or the fixture has been disabled until it can be replaced. In most instances, simply replacing the older fixture with a newer model reduces the concentration of lead to an acceptable level. New fixtures have been ordered to replace the sampled fixtures with the high levels. All other fixtures in the building that are the same model will also be replaced.
- Sampling and testing is ongoing in the D Hall locations to pinpoint problem area for correction. A valve has also been installed into a plumbing line to allow for a sampling point prior to the water reaching a fixture.
- Once the fixture is replaced, the water will be resampled and tested at that location to ensure the source of the excessive lead levels has been removed before use.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

FACILITY	STRUCTURE	LEVEL DETECTED *(parts per billion or ppb)*
Soccer 1	Sink Faucet	1
Soccer 2		None detected
Baseball 1	Sink Faucet	None detected
Baseball 2	Sink Faucet	None detected
Baseball 3	Sink Faucet	2
Girls' Softball	3 Complete Sink	12
Girls' Softball	SW Restroom	27
Girls' Softball	Drinking Fountain	6
Stadium Concession Stand 1	Sink Faucet	None detected
Stadium Concession Stand 2	Sink Faucet	None detected
Stadium Concession Stand 3	Sink Faucet	7
Stadium Concession Stand 4	Sink Faucet	4

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- Once the fixture is replaced, the water will be resampled and tested at that location to ensure the source of the excessive lead levels has been removed before use.
- Additional testing will be done in the spring on currently winterized fixtures once those have been turned back on.

For More Information, *please contact Mark Kleinhans, Superintendent of Bedford Public Schools at 734-850-6002 or mark.kleinhans@mybedford.us*