

# Lead in Drinking Water - Public and Nonpublic Schools

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S) CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL 6200 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21212

### ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On September 24, 2019, *forty (40)* lead water samples were collected from Cambridge School. Of these lead water samples, only three were considered for consumption. All other sources were previously labeled "not for drinking". The elevated lead in drinking water results from the sample(s) collected at Cambridge School were as follows:

| Lead Level Results (ppb) | Location of Tap - Sample was collected from (same as floor plan) | Action Taken |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| 8.1                      | CS – W. Wing - Lev 1 - Kitchen sink                              | Closed       |
| 9.4                      | CS – W. Wing - Lev 1 - Kitchen Bath                              | Closed       |
| 12.4                     | CS – W. Wing - Lev 1 - Kitchen Bath Sink                         | Closed       |

### ACTION LEVEL (AL)

The AL is 5.5 ppb for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The AL is the concentration of lead, which if exceeded, triggers required remediation.

### HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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 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.

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN

Signage was in place prior to testing and indicates that all bathroom and classroom sinks are for handwashing only, not for drinking or to be used in the preparation of food. Quench filtration systems are in place and are maintained as per instructions to provide a lead free source of drinking water to all staff, faculty, and students. The locations identified as “kitchen” water sources were immediately shut down and made inaccessible to all staff, faculty, and students.

#### NEXT STEPS

Flush testing was conducted in 12 locations to confirm that lead content is greatly diminished by flushing the water for 1 minute. These were precautionary samples collected from “non-consumption outlets”.

No further action is required.

#### **TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:**

1. Run your water to flush out lead: If water has not 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.*

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. For additional information, please contact Bing Bond at 443-799-6629. 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.