



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

“Every Child’s Success is Our Mission”

Ph: 413-772-1310 / Fax: 413-772-1379

Jordana B. Harper, Superintendent of Schools

March 21, 2017

Dear Greenfield Public School Families, Students, and Staff,

On March 14, 2017, you were notified of recent water quality testing conducted in the Greenfield Public Schools in order to pro-actively ensure the highest possible level of safety for all students and staff. This voluntary testing was conducted in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), and is in addition to testing protocols which are regularly conducted as required by law.

This letter is to inform you that on March 20, 2017, we received new information from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with additional results from **Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School**. Some of these samples indicate levels of copper and/or lead above action levels. This letter is to explain those results and the actions Greenfield Public Schools is taking to safeguard students and sensitive individuals.

The Action Level for Copper is 1.3 (mg/L) or 1.3 parts per million (ppm) and the Action Level for Lead is 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or 15 parts per billion (ppb).

At Greenfield Middle School, there were 5 samples with lead above action levels and 23 samples with copper above action levels. It is important to note that the findings at Greenfield Middle School were primarily in rooms not typically used by students and not typical sources of drinking water, including sink faucets in closets and supply rooms. There were 5 water fountains with samples above action levels for copper and 0 for lead. Of these 5, all were found to be within safe limits after a 30 second flush.

At Greenfield High School, there were 0 samples with lead above action levels and 13 samples with copper above action levels. Of these samples, only 4 samples indicated elevated copper levels on a “second draw” following a 30 second flush. There were no elevated lead findings at Greenfield High School. Elevated copper levels are not unusual for new copper piping. These results are only slightly elevated and are not believed to present a significant health risk.

As stated in our March 14 letter, the Greenfield DPW has conducted an analysis and determined that the source of the lead and/or copper is the metal fixtures at these sample sites at sites except the High School, where the cause of the copper levels is the new copper piping. A copy of the water results is available in the Superintendent’s office. As results are published, they can be viewed online at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/lcca-schools-list.pdf>.

The administration takes these results very seriously, and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. In coordination with Mass DPH, DEP, Greenfield Public Works, Greenfield Health Department, upon receiving and interpreting the results, the ***Greenfield Public Schools have taken proactive measures to ensure student safety and are working quickly to share the information with you.***



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To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals, Greenfield Public Schools have taken the following immediate actions as part of our corrective actions at Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School:

1. We have removed from service all taps with lead levels over the Action Level on either first or second draw were immediately removed from service.
2. We have begun implementing a flushing and water usage plan, expanded to include Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School, to safeguard against copper exposure from drinking water in the school at outlets that were found to be above the MassDEP Action Level for copper. This includes the daily flushing of water fountains and/or faucets at sinks before consumption by students or staff.
3. Any water sources that are above action levels for copper will be eliminated as sources of drinking water, until updated testing indicates levels below action levels.
4. In cooperation with the DPW, all fixtures and sample sites that exceeded Action Levels will have sampling conducted again in four weeks. More information will be available at that time.
5. Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead and/or copper exposure from drinking water at our schools.

With this updated information, we are working swiftly to act in the best interest of our students’ safety and that of all staff. We remain committed to the health and safety of our students as our foremost goal.

If you have any questions about this information please contact at Don Ouellette at the Greenfield DPW.

Respectfully,

Jordana B. Harper
Superintendent

William Martin, Mayor
Chair, School Committee

Don Ouellette
Greenfield DPW

Alan Schmidt
Facilities Manager