

# Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE: LEAD IN WATER SAMPLE RESULTS**

### **Imagine Lincoln Public Charter School**

#### **LEAD IN WATER SAMPLE RESULTS**

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On June 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, fifty-three (53) lead water samples were collected from Imagine Lincoln PCS. The samples were submitted to an MDE certified laboratory for lead in water analysis using current US EPA methodology. Of these 53 lead water samples, five had levels of lead exceeding the action level of 5 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in drinking water in school buildings.

Below is a brief summary of the test results for Imagine Lincoln PCS. A more detailed test result document can be found on the school website.

Date of Test Report	June 14, 2019
Round of Testing	Initial
# of Outlets Tested	53
# of Outlets $\geq$ 5 ppb	5
Low Value (ppb)	< 1 ppb
High Value (ppb)	23 ppb
Follow-up Testing Required (Samples $\geq$ 5 ppb)	none

The five elevated lead results from the samples collected at Imagine Lincoln PCS were as follows:

- 16 ppb: Bathroom sink in the cafeteria - device #4207-1-BS-24 (non-consumable)
- 5.8 ppb: Classroom faucet in classroom 5A - device #4207-2-CR-41 (non-consumable)
- 12 ppb: Classroom faucet in classroom 7B - device #4207-2-CR-57 (non-consumable)
- 5.8 ppb: Classroom faucet in classroom 8B - device #4207-2-CR-59 (non-consumable)
- 23 ppb: Classroom faucet in classroom 5B - device #4207-2-CR-66 (non-consumable)

#### **ACTION LEVEL (AL)**

The AL is 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, cosmetics, exposure in the workplace, 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**

Since all the devices that tested above 5 ppb are non-consumable devices, do not drink signage indicating that it is a non-consumable device is considered an appropriate remediation and was placed on each device within 24 hours of receiving the test results.

### **NEXT STEPS**

There is no need to take a second, flushed sample from the affected devices since they are all non-consumable. Once appropriate signage was placed, there is no need to take any further steps.

### **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 water will not reduce lead levels.*

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information, please contact Principal Benjamin "Eric" Roberts at 301-808-5600 or email [Benjamin2.roberts@pgcps.org](mailto:Benjamin2.roberts@pgcps.org). 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.