



KITTATINNY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
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May 9, 2022

Dear Kittatinny Regional School District School Parents, Guardians and Staff:

Kittatinny Regional School District is committed to protecting Kittatinny Regional School District students' and staff's health. As required by the Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead. Kittatinny Regional School District has sampled the lead drinking water for Kittatinny Regional School District for April 22, 2022.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the 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. 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. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

In other words, it is the fetus that is at risk because developing fetuses receive lead from the mother's bones. Children and fetuses absorb more lead into their bodies than adults and are more susceptible to its effects on brain development; however, most children with elevated blood lead levels do not exhibit any symptoms, but effects may appear later in life.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants 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 pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of or lined with lead. Since 1987, all plumbing materials must be "lead free". The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However,

prior to January 4, 2014, “lead free” allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

What Actions Are We Taking?

Prior to sampling, Kittatinny Regional School District developed a Lead Sampling Plan for Kittatinny Regional School District and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the school to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or a lead service line are present.

The Kittatinny Regional School District Lead Sampling Plan may be reviewed at the school.

All drinking water outlets in Kittatinny Regional School District were sampled on April 22, 2022. We anticipate receiving the results from our laboratory within the next week. Upon receiving the sample results, Kittatinny Regional School District will inform you if any of the drinking water outlets had a result greater than the Environmental Protection Agency’s lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) and will post all of the results on our website at KRHS.net. The results will be used to assist in the prioritization of future water testing for lead in accordance with Kittatinny Regional School District Lead Sampling Plan.

Kittatinny Regional School District will also implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 ppb. This will include turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a “DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY” sign will be posted.

How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Theresa Linskey at Kittatinny Regional School District at 973-383-1800 Ext. 1520. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection’s website at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead.html>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig M. Hutcheson" followed by the initials "E.S.D." to the right.

Dr. Craig Hutcheson
Superintendent of Schools