

January 31, 2022

RE: Cherokee High School Water Testing

Dear LRHSD Community,

The Board of Education and Administration of the Lenape Regional High School District is committed to fulfilling our mission, which in part states: “to develop physically and emotionally healthy students who excel in an ever-changing world...” To protect our school community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, we tested Cherokee High School water for lead.

Results of our Initial Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we completed a plumbing profile of Cherokee High School. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 80 samples taken, 77 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 ug/l ppb) and 3 tested above the lead action level.

It is important to note that none of our drinking water outlets exceeded the lead action level. All water outlets that tested above the action level were outlets that are NOT drinking water areas. In addition, those outlets have not been used regularly over the past two years as a result of building operational changes due to COVID-19.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the LRHSD implemented immediate remedial measures for any water outlet with a result greater than the prescribed action level. The table below identifies the water outlets that tested above the 15 ug/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action was taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location & ID #	First Draw Result in ug/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
North Building – North Kitchen Sink #49CHSNKC	540 ppb	All outlets were shut down and required DEP investigative protocol was followed.
South Building – CC117 Kitchen Break Rm Sink #3CHSSDW	30.9 ppb	
South Building – Kitchen Steam Oven #14CHSSFP	42.5 ppb	

Results of our Confirmation Testing

Following our initial testing, a plumbing investigation was conducted and remedial actions were taken at the three identified locations to address the initial levels shown, which included replacing faucets and associated piping with NSF certified parts. **Confirmation testing was then conducted, and results indicated acceptable levels for all four affected locations.**

The table below identifies the water outlets that were confirmation tested, the actual lead level, and remedial action necessary, if any.

Sample Location & ID #	First Draw Result in ug/l (ppb)	Remedial Action
North Building – North Kitchen Sink #49CHSNKC	<1.00 ppb	No further action required
South Building – CC117 Kitchen Break Rm Sink #3CHSSDW	<1.00 ppb	
South Building – Kitchen Steam Oven #14CHSSFP	<1.00 ppb	

How Lead Enters Our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, 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 in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1987, 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. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead 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 may contain fairly high levels of lead.

Health Effects of Lead

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age. 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 the body. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. 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 children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our District office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm. It is also available on our website at www.lrhdsd.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Anthony Vairo, Director of Buildings & Grounds, at 609-268-2000, extension 5525.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider. If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

As always, your child's and our employees' health and safety are the LRHSD's highest priority. "Partnerships with families and the community" to provide "a secure, challenging and energizing environment" also is integral to the LRHSD mission. We value your partnership and are happy to address any questions or concerns you may have about our lead testing program.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Birnbohm, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools