

A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF
Scarsdale High School
Lead Testing of School Drinking Water
11/20/20

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) to test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used- or could potentially be used- for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 15 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is “first draw” testing of school drinking water for lead?

The “on-again, off-again” nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This “first draw” sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What has changed since the last time the District tested for lead?

After receiving results from our last round of testing in 2016, the District installed lead filters on all water fountains which exceeded specified limits. With the recent installation of UV/lead filter water bottle filling stations, all drinking water stations are below any required reporting levels. In other locations where there was a reported exceedance, a sign was installed which has alerted users that the water is not potable.

Which outlets exceeded specified limits in the most recent testing?

Scarsdale High School - Scarsdale School District				
Date	Sample ID	Floor	Location	Lead Level (ppb)
10/27/2020	01-Ath trainer-CF-P-1	1	Class sink 1, Athletic trainer office	149
10/27/2020	02-Womens-BF-P-4	2	Bathroom sink 4, By room 256 (left)	24.2
10/27/2020	02-Mens-BF-P-7	2	Bathroom sink 7, By room 220 (middle)	54.6
10/27/2020	02-288-CF-P-14	2	Class sink 14, Room 288	742
10/27/2020	02-288-CF-P-15	2	Class sink 15, Room 288	192

10/27/2020	02-288-CF-P-16	2	Class sink 16, Room 288	6880
10/27/2020	02-288-CF-P-17	2	Class sink 17, Room 288	22.5
10/27/2020	02-288-CF-P-18	2	Class sink 18, Room 288	116
10/27/2020	02-288-CF-P-19	2	Class sink 19, Room 288	130
10/27/2020	02-288-CF-P-20	2	Class sink 20, Room 288	80.6

What is being done in response to the results?

Outlets (sinks) that tested with lead levels above the action level (15 ppb) were removed from service, unless an outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. All sinks, other than bathrooms, will have a lead filter installed. Outlets without filters (bathrooms) will be periodically flushed. All outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

For more information regarding the test results, contact *Mike Paterra, Director of Facilities* at (914)721-2440, or go to our school website: [High School Water Lead Testing Results 2020](#)

Additional Resources

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, go to:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (available in ten languages).