



# Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Livingston Public Schools tested our schools' water for lead in April 2017. These results were sent to the school district today and shared with the Board of Education.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Livingston Public Schools immediately implemented remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l [parts per billion, ppb].

### Results of our Testing

Following instructions developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within Livingston Public Schools. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water, non-drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 367 samples taken, all but 8 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

Out of the 8 outlets referred to above, 6 were from non-drinking water sources, including outdoor spigots and sink faucets. Two fountains at Collins Elementary tested above the actionable limit and were immediately taken out of service.

The 8 tested outlets that showed elevated levels of lead greater than the NJDOE Lead Action Level of 15ppb are described below:

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fixture Type</u>	<u>Lead Concentration (PPB)</u>	<u>Remedial Action</u>
Hillside	Reading Room	Sink Faucet	20.2	Immediately took sink out of service
Harrison	Main Office	Sink Faucet	17.7	Immediately took sink out of service
Heritage	Outside. Back Side of the Building.	Hose Spigot	23.0	Immediately took spigot out of service
Collins	Room 16	Bubbler Fountain	48.4	Immediately took fountain out of service
Collins	Room 17	Bubbler Fountain	69.5	Immediately took fountain out of service
High School	Kitchen. 2 Compartment Sink. Right Faucet.	Sink Faucet	33.7	Immediately took sink out of service
Monmouth Ct.	Basement Kitchen. Left Sink.	Sink Faucet	18.3	Immediately took sink out of service
Monmouth Ct.	Room 203	Sink Faucet	39.7	Immediately took sink out of service

### 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 your 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. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

### 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 1986, 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.

### Lead in Drinking Water

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.

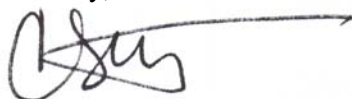
### For More Information

Test results are available for inspection in our central office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A copy of the test results will be made available on our website, [www.livingston.org](http://www.livingston.org). For more information about water quality in our schools, contact us at (973) 535-8000 ext. 8033.

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](http://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 in the schools or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,



Christina Steffner  
Superintendent of Schools



Steven K. Robinson  
Business Administrator