



# HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.hpschools.net  
435 Mansfield St, Highland Park  
NJ, 08904

OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

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November 8, 2024

## For distribution

RE: **Lead in Drinking Water Sampling**  
**Highland Park Middle School**  
330 Wayne St  
Highland Park, New Jersey 08904  
EL Project # 21-0026

Dear Staff, Parents and Students:

Highland Park Public Schools are committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect the Highland Park community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Highland Park Board of Education retained Environmental Logic, LLC (EL) to test the school's drinking water for lead.

## Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the Highland Park Public School system was prepared. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. The US Environmental Protection Agency has established a lead in drinking water action level of 15 µg/l [ppb]. On August 23, 2024, EL collected drinking water samples throughout the aforementioned school.

**No lead concentrations exceeding 15 µg/l [ppb] were identified in drinking water outlets or food preparation sinks.**

## 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

A copy of the test results is available at our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and are also available on our website at [www.hpschools.net](http://www.hpschools.net). For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Director of Facilities, John Flanagan at 732-572-2400 ext. 5815 or [jflanagan@hpschools.net](mailto:jflanagan@hpschools.net).

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site 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 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise M. DeRosa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denise" being the most prominent part.

Denise M. DeRosa  
School Business Administrator

Enclosures: Analytical Data Summary Table

**Table 1**

**Highland Park Middle School**

**Lead in Drinking Water Sampling Results**

| Location      |                                                             | Faculty office | Gym 2-New fountain | Gym 2 – new Bottle Fill | Gym 2 – old fountain left | Gym 2 – old fountain right | Room 104 – low fountain | Room 104 – high fountain |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sample ID:    | NJ Drinking Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:10 9/18) (µg/L) | HPMS-TL-DW-1   | HPMS-DW-2          | HPMS-BF-2A              | HPMS-DW-3                 | HPMS-DW-4                  | HPMS-DW-5               | HPMS-DW-6                |
| Lab ID:       |                                                             | 24H2625-01     | 24H2625-02         | 24H2625-03              | 24H2625-04                | 24H2625-05                 | 24H2625-06              | 24H2625-07               |
| Date Sampled: |                                                             | 8/23/2024      | 8/23/2024          | 8/23/2024               | 8/23/2024                 | 8/23/2024                  | 8/23/2024               | 8/23/2024                |
| Analyte       |                                                             |                |                    |                         |                           |                            |                         |                          |
| Lead          | 15                                                          | <1.0           | <1.0               | <1.0                    | <1.0                      | <1.0                       | <1.0                    | <1.0                     |

RL - Reporting Limit  
µg/L - Microgram Per Liter  
<1.0 - Indicates no detection above the RL

| Location      |                                                             | Room 303 – low fountain | Room 303 - Bottle Fill | By room 104- Bottle Fill | 2nd floor by girl's room – low fountain | 2nd floor by girl's room - Bottle Fill |             |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sample ID:    | NJ Drinking Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:10 9/18) (µg/L) | HPMS-DW-7               | HPMS-BF-8              | HPMS-DW-5A               | HPMS-DW-9                               | HPMS-BF-10                             | FIELD BLANK |
| Lab ID:       |                                                             | 24H2625-08              | 24H2625-09             | 24H2625-10               | 24H2625-11                              | 24H2625-12                             | 24H2625-13  |
| Date Sampled: |                                                             | 8/23/2024               | 8/23/2024              | 8/23/2024                | 8/23/2024                               | 8/23/2024                              | 8/23/2024   |
| Analyte       |                                                             |                         |                        |                          |                                         |                                        |             |
| Lead          | 15                                                          | <1.0                    | <1.0                   | <1.0                     | <1.0                                    | <1.0                                   | <1.0        |

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