



Franklin Township Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

1755 Amwell Road
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Dr. John A. Ravally
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 732-873-2400 ext. 312
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March 16, 2017

Dear Franklin Township School Community:

Our school district is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, Franklin Township School District has been conducting testing of our schools' drinking water for lead.

Why Test School Drinking Water for 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 old. 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. In the most extreme circumstances high levels of lead can even lead to serious brain injury.

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and day care facilities test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead.

Is Our School's Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools' water is safe. Franklin Township School District is currently performing testing of our schools' drinking water for lead. I informed our community of the **first round** of test results in a letter dated March 10, 2017.

Today I would like to inform you of the second and third round of results.

The second round of testing involved the collection of 158 samples at five school facilities. During this round of sampling, 26 samples came back with exceedances. There were no exceedances at Hillcrest School.

The **second round** of testing indicated lead at levels higher than the 15 ppb threshold at the following outlets:

Conerly Road School – 9 exceedances:

- 1) 1st Floor Kitchen Faucet used for Food Prep
- 2) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 20
- 3) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 21
- 4) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 22
- 5) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 2
- 6) 1st Floor Faucet in Principal's Office Bathroom
- 7) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 7
- 8) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 14
- 9) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 15

“Excellence, Opportunity, and Affirmation for Every Child”

Pine Grove Manor School – 5 exceedances:

- 1) 1st Floor Faucet in Nurse’s Office
- 2) 1st Floor Drinking Water Fountain in Hallway by Kitchen
- 3) 1st Floor Kitchen Faucet used for Food Prep
- 4) 1st Floor Drinking Water Fountain in Room 4
- 5) 1st Floor Faucet in Principal’s Office Bathroom

Franklin Middle School – 2 exceedances:

- 1) 2nd Floor Drinking Water Fountain by Room 19
- 2) 2nd Floor Faucet in Teacher’s Lounge in Room 220

Hillcrest School – No Exceedances

MacAfee Road School – 10 Exceedances:

- 1) 1st Floor Food Prep Faucet in Kitchen by Boiler Room
- 2) 1st Floor Food Prep Steamer in Kitchen by Boiler Room
- 3) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 69
- 4) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 71
- 5) 1st Floor Drinking Water Fountain by Teacher’s Lounge
- 6) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 37
- 7) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 39
- 8) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 40
- 9) 1st Floor Faucet in Room 43
- 10) 1st Floor Drinking Water Fountain in Room 43

The **third round** of testing involved the collection of 153 samples at two school facilities. During this round of sampling, 3 samples came back with exceedances.

The third round of testing indicated lead at levels higher than the 15 ppb threshold at the following outlets:

Franklin High School – 2 exceedances:

- 1) Food Prep Outlet (J) in 1st Floor Kitchen (G106)
- 2) Food Prep Outlet (K) in 1st Floor Kitchen (G106)

Elizabeth Avenue School – 1 exceedance:

- 1) Drinking Water Fountain in 1st Floor Classroom 4

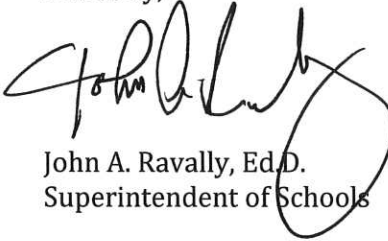
It is important to note that follow-up flush samples will be taken at each of the outlets, which indicated lead levels above the specified threshold, to assist in identifying the potential source of the lead at these outlets. Until then, we will be isolating these outlets so that they will not be used for drinking water purposes.

Confirmatory flush samples will be taken at each of these outlets. If the fixtures are identified to contain lead or lead parts, we will replace the part or plumbing. While we continue with the sampling process, we will ensure that no one uses these outlets until the problem has been corrected.

How Can I Learn More?

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results by visiting the Office of the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, which is open Monday to Friday from (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) and on our Web site at (www.franklinboe.org). For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Mr. Rick Goetz at 732-873-2371 and/or Mr. James Strimple at 732-873-2400 ext. 308. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Ravally". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John A. Ravally, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools