Franklin High School PTSO Newsletter

Special Edition

Volume 2 Issue 7 *A Monthly Publication of the FHS PTSO for the FHS Community* May MMXV1

Schools' Drinking Water Test Results Analysis – The Right to Know

During the past several months the nation has been alerted to the possible contamination of our public water supply system with heavy metals such as copper and lead. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established primary standards that protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water. According to these standards, "lead and copper are regulated by a treatment technique that requires systems to control the corrosiveness of their water. If more than 10% of tap water samples exceed the action level, water systems must take additional steps." The action levels, also known as the maximum contaminated limit (MCL), for copper is 1.3 mg/L (1,300 µg/L) and for lead it is 0.015 mg/L (15 µg/L). In lay man's terms lead level limits is 15 parts per billion and that of copper is 1,300 parts per billion. Despite these limits, the EPA cautions that there is no safe level of lead exposure given the abundance of scientific research demonstrating that elevated levels of lead in the blood of children are associated with learning and behavioral challenges.

Last month the Franklin Township Board of Education, under the leader of Mr. Edward Potosnak, entered into a contract with SGS ACCUTEST New Jersey to test the drinking fountains and food preparation sources in all of the district's nine public schools, as well as the administration buildings. This proactive measure is commendable and proved noteworthy given the results, which are summarized in the following tables. According to the official report, samples were taken from various water fountains and were analyzed by the well-established, nationally approved EPA 200.8 method. It's worth mentioning that this detection technique is a precise analytical methodology which employs mass spectroscopy, specifically Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP-MS), to detect minute traces of contaminants in drinking water samples.

The data from the testing company indicates that the copper level of drinking water in all of our public schools satisfy the criterion for safe consumption. However, samples from three of the four water fountains at Hillcrest registered high levels (≥125% MCL) of lead; the fourth fountain is 52% of the maximum contaminated limit. Based on this finding school administrators ordered the shutting off of all water fountains at Hillcrest pending further testing.

Water Fountain Tested	Parts per Billion (µg/L)	
Franklin High School	**Copper**	**Lead**
2nd Floor	580	< 0.5
Across C112	350	< 0.5
Events Lobby	430	< 0.5
Room C360	580	< 0.5
Kitchen	500	< 0.5
Franklin Middle School	**Copper**	**Lead**
300 Hall	57	1
Room 504	150	7.3
100 Hall	62	0.92
400 Hall	100	2.9
Faculty Rm 208	1,100	5.2
Maximum Concentration Limit	**1,300**	**15**

Water Fountain Tested	Parts per Billion (µg/L)	
Sampson G Smith School	**Copper**	**Lead**
500 Hall Bath Room	220	< 0.5
Main Office	24	< 0.5
Kitchen	160	2.3
300	140	0.77
Next to Rm 204	95	< 0.5
Elizabeth Avenue School	**Copper**	**Lead**
Area 3 - Rare Hall	87	< 0.5
Café Hall	15	< 0.5
Kitchen	320	< 0.5
Kitchen Hall	67	< 0.5
Franklin Park School	**Copper**	**Lead**
100 Hall	280	< 0.5
300 Hall	300	< 0.5
Cafeteria	140	< 0.5
Kitchen	290	< 0.5
Hillcrest	**Copper**	**Lead**
Kitchen	180	7.2
100 Hall	500	24
300 Hall	110	19
200 Hall	470	25
MacAfee	**Copper**	**Lead**
Near Teacher's Lounge	67	2.6
Front Hall	86	< 0.5
Kitchen	180	< 0.5
Gym	320	0.63
Pine Grove Manor	**Copper**	**Lead**
Main Office	62	7
Next to Room 23	71	4.7
Faculty Room	68	5.8
Kitchen	75	10
Administration Building	**Copper**	**Lead**
2nd Floor Bath Room	48	5.6
Buildings and Grounds		
2nd Floor Ladies Bath Room	110	1.1
Maximum Concentration Limit	**1,300**	**15**

Data for Conerly Road School is not available.

Reference:

http://www.franklinboe.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=1&ModuleInstanceID=8494&ViewID=047E6BE3-6D87-4130-8424-D8E4E9ED6C2A&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=22842&PageID=1