



WILDWOOD CREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

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David J. Del Conte, Jr., Superintendent

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Dear CMS Family,

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, the Wildwood Crest School District in conjunction with the Cape May County Board of Health tested our school's drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the Wildwood Crest School District will implement immediate remedial measures for any water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [µg/l]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK: SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted. This is a Non-Potable water sign as designated by the County Board Of Health.

Results of our 2nd Round of Lead Testing

We followed instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and completed a plumbing profile for the Wildwood Crest School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all water and food preparation outlets. **Of the 68 samples tested, 62 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [pbb]).**

The six water outlets that were found to be above the 15 µg/l were not primary drinking sources and were sinks. All sinks that were tested passed a 30 second flush test. It was recommended by the County Board of Health that we replace our fixtures and retest or turn the sink off. We immediately began remediation, and will continue doing so until acceptable levels are achieved.

We have remediated and retested 3 of the six water outlets and have shut down the other three the outlets. After retesting results were given. We have decided to shut down another water outlet.

The table below identifies the water outlets that were retested for lead and what remedial action the Wildwood Crest School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

<u>Location of Water Outlet and Type</u>	<u>Remediation</u>
Room 29 LEFT SINK; Sample #C169	Passed with a .9 ug/L after installation of a new faucet.
Room 29 RT SINK; Sample #C171	Failed initial retest with 16.6 ug/L Passed with the 30 flush with 2.4 ug/L Turned off water distribution.
Room 36 BACK LEFT SINK; Sample #C126	Turned off water distribution.

Room 36 BACK RIGHT SINK; Sample#C128	Turned off water distribution.
Room 36 SIDE LEFT SINK; Sample #C130	Turned off water distribution.
Room 1 SINK; Sample #C141	Passed with a 6.7 ug/L after installation of a new faucet.

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, 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 in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30am-3:30 p.m. In addition, copies of the results have already been posted on our website at www.crestmem.edu. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Jim Parker, Supervisor of Building and Grounds, 609-522-1522 X121.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit the EPA's website at 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 healthcare provider about testing your child to determine the level of lead present in your child's blood.

Sincerely,



David Del Conte, Jr.
Superintendent