Asbury Park Board of Education
910 4th Avenue
Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712
(732) 776-2606 Ext. 2423

Dr. Lamont Repollet, *Superintendent*

Sancha K. Gray
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Carole Morris
State Fiscal Monitor

Dr. Kristie M. Howard
Director of Student Services

Geoffrey Hastings
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Roberta S. Beauford
Director of Operations

Dr. Carolyn J. Marano
Director of Special Services

May 9, 2017

Dear Parents and Staff,

The Asbury Park Board of Education is committed to protecting the health of all of its students, faculty and staff. In an effort to protect our community and comply with the Department of Education regulations, drinking water sources in every school building in the district, as well as in our support buildings, were tested for lead in February 2017.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 262 drinking water samples were taken throughout the district and tested for lead content. Through this effort, we identified and tested all water fountains in classrooms and hallways, food preparation areas, faculty rooms, nurse's rooms, preschool classrooms, and even ice machines. Of the 262 samples taken, all but 7 tested below the lead action level established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb] (parts per billion)).

Remedial Measures

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the Asbury Park Board of Education implemented immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l [ppb]. This included turning off the water outlet[s] unless it was determined that the location must remain on for *non-drinking* purposes. In any such area, a sign stating, "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" was posted.

The table below identifies the locations within the district that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead. The actual lead level is listed, along with the remedial action that has been taken by the Asbury Park Board of Education to cease consumption and to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Asbury Park Board of Education
Water Test Results for Levels over 15 µg/l

Sample Location	First Draw Results In $\mu g/l$ $[ppm]$	Remedial Action
HIGH SCHOOL Faculty Room 211 A ID # HS 211!ASFAP Sample #19	138	Water shut off to sink Sink scheduled be removed
HIGH SCHOOL Kitchen, Hand Washing Sink ID #HSKITSFAP Sample #33	31.5	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK - SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL Kitchen Kettle Faucet ID # MSKITKETW Sample # 07	15.7	Water to faucet shut off Removed from service
THURGOOD MARSHALL Kitchen Hand Sprayer ID #TMKITSF2FAP Sample # 2	28.8	Removed sprayer assembly rendering faucet inoperative
BARACK OBAMA SCHOOL First Floor Water Cooler 1 First Floor Water Cooler 2 ID # BO1NE1WC ID #BO1NE2WC	21.6 65.0	Water to both water fountains, side-by-side, shut off. Water fountains replaced April 22, 2017
BARACK OBAMA SCHOOL Nurse's Auxiliary Sink Room 144 ID # BO150F1AP Sample # 15	22.4	Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK - SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"

Important Information Regarding Lead in Drinking Water

How Lead Enters Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers, streams or 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 usually include lead-based solder which may have been used in connecting copper pipe, brass fittings, 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 in 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 level may dissolve into the drinking water. This means that the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Health Effects of Lead in Water

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause heath related problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants and children under six 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 the 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 their 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.

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 from each facility of the Asbury Park Board Education is available for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, personnel, and parents, on our website at **www.Asburypark.k12.nj.us** or can be viewed upon request by contacting the Safety and Health Coordinator at 732-776-2663, extension 2852 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Asbury Park Board of Education has a strong commitment to protect its students and staff from environmental factors which may have an impact on their future and/or educational achievement. Additionally, it is also important to know if the water being consumed at your place of residence contains elevated levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead exposure in your children, from home or school, you may want to consult with your health care provider about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

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** or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or contact your health provider.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lamont Repollet
Superintendent of Schools