



The Board of Education of Worcester County

6270 Worcester Highway
Newark, Maryland 21841
www.worcesterk12.org
Telephone: (410) 632-5000
Fax: (410) 632-0364

LOUIS H. TAYLOR
Superintendent of Schools

H. STEPHEN PRICE
Chief Safety Officer

JOHN R. QUINN, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer

VINCENT E. TOLBERT, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

ANNETTE E. WALLACE, Ed.D.
Chief Operating Officer

Board Members

WILLIAM L. GORDY
President

ERIC W. CROPPER, SR.
Vice-President

BARRY Q. BRITTINGHAM, SR.

WILLIAM E. BUCHANAN

TODD A. FERRANTE

ELENA J. MCCOMAS

SARA D. THOMPSON

February 28, 2019

NOTICE OF ELEVATED LEVEL OF LEAD IN WATER OUTLETS: **BUCKINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Maryland law (Chapter 386, 2017) requires all occupied public and nonpublic schools, serving children in prekindergarten to grade 12, that receive drinking water from a public utility to test for the presence of lead in all drinking water outlets.

Worcester County Public Schools began the water testing process in January 2019. On January 17, 2019, Maryland Environmental Service collected water samples from forty-one water outlets at Buckingham Elementary School. In addition, 7 additional water outlets were tested on January 30, 2019. Results of those tests will be forwarded to you when they are received from the laboratory.

On February 14, 2019, the testing laboratory, ALS Environmental, forwarded water sample test results to Maryland Environmental Service for the forty-one Buckingham Elementary School samples taken on January 17, 2019.

A total of seven water outlets tested above the compliance action level of 20 ppb (parts per billion). Listed below are the locations of the seven outlets.

1. Sink in Women's bathroom (left side) located in corridor Success Street (41.8 ppb)
2. Sink in Men's bathroom (left side) located in corridor Success Street (31.3 ppb)
3. Sink in Men's bathroom (right side) located in corridor Success Street (35.7 ppb)
4. Sink in Men's bathroom (right side) located in corridor Respect Road (26.3 ppb)
5. Sink in Women's bathroom (left side) located in corridor Respect Road (39.3 ppb)
6. Sink in Women's bathroom (right side) located in corridor Respect Road (62.0 ppb)
7. Sink located in Math Classroom (25.2 ppb)

Please be advised that these water testing results DO NOT mean that there are elevated levels of lead in the drinking water servicing Buckingham Elementary School students and staff. The results indicate that the actual water outlets (sink faucets) in the seven locations identified above are providing elevated lead results. Six of the seven outlets identified in the report are in Adult Only bathrooms. None of the tested water outlets used for food preparation nor any of the water fountain outlets throughout the school were discovered to have elevated levels of lead.

In compliance with Maryland Department of the Environment regulations concerning lead in drinking water, Worcester County Public Schools has taken the following actions:



1. Within 24 hours of receipt of test results, close access to each of the seven outlets.
Completed 2/15/19.
2. Remove the existing outlet and replace with a new outlet.
Completed 2/19/19.
3. Within 5 school days, conduct a follow-up lead test sampling at the new outlet.
Completed 2/20/19.
4. Follow-up lead test sampling:
 - a. Results in levels less than 20 ppb, no further action required.
 - i. 1 of the 7 re-tested water outlets fell in this category – sink in Women’s bathroom (right side) located in corridor Respect Road.
 - b. Results in levels greater than 20 ppb, install signage indicating water outlet is to be used for hand-washing only.
 - i. 6 of the 7 re-tested water outlets fell in this category.
 - ii. Hand Washing Only signs have been installed at these outlets.
5. Within 10 school days, notify parent or legal guardian of each student attending the school of the school’s receipt of the laboratory report. Completed 3/1/19.
6. Within 10 school days, notify school teachers and other employees of the school’s receipt of the laboratory report. Completed 3/1/19.
7. Within 30 school days of the school’s receipt of the laboratory report, notice shall be posted on the school web site. Completed 3/1/19.

You may access additional information regarding the lead testing program at the Maryland Department of the Environment website:

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Pages/Testing-For-Lead-In-Drinking-Water-Public-and-Nonpublic-Schools.aspx

For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency’s website: www.epa.gov/lead

If you are concerned about your child’s exposure to lead, please contact your local health department or health care provider to find out how to get your child tested for lead.