



# Montgomery Township School District

Route 601, Skillman, NJ 08558

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Nancy H. Gartenberg, Superintendent

May 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

Montgomery Township School District is committed to protecting students' and staff's health. As required by the Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead. In an effort to be proactive regarding the possibility of lead in our district's drinking water, the Montgomery Township Board of Education retained PARS Environmental, Inc. (PARS) to conduct water testing at all five schools in Montgomery. PARS conducted the "lead in drinking water testing" during spring break.

### Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. 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. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

Lead is rarely found in the source water; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines). Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be "lead free". The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

### What Actions Are We Taking?

Prior to sampling, Montgomery Township School District developed a Lead Sampling Plan and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the school to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or a lead service line are present.

The Montgomery Township School District Lead Sampling Plan is available for public review and is on file in the office of the School Business Administrator, Board Administrative Offices, 1014 Route 601, Skillman, NJ 08558.

The USEPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulations requires that immediate action be taken if samples from any drinking water outlet exhibit lead concentrations greater than (>) 15 parts per billion (ppb). Exceedance of the 15 ppb action level was identified in one sample taken in the LMS secondary sink located in the nurse's office, and in two samples of OHES water fountains. The laboratory analysis revealed that these samples were above the action level of 15 ppb. All sources were sampled on April 14, 2017, and re-sampled on April 25, 2017. The lead levels decreased from the primary First Draw samples collected. The 15 ppb action level was not exceeded in the second sampling of any of the locations.

None of the samples taken at MHS, UMS, or VES exceeded the 15 ppb action level. Based on the laboratory analytical results, no further investigation is warranted at this time.

Immediately upon receiving the initial results, our staff implemented remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (ppb). This will include turning off the outlet unless it was determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. (In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK - SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign was posted.)

### How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Dave Klein at 609-466-7600, ext. 7013. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html>.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gartenberg  
Superintendent of Schools