Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools
Updated in response to legislation effective as of June 1, 2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)
St. Elizabeth School

ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)
All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On July 29, 2021, 56 lead water samples were collected from St. Elizabeth School. Of these lead water samples, 25 had levels of lead exceeding the State's revised action level of 5 parts per billion (ppb) *(formerly 20 ppb; 5 ppb effective June 1, 2021)* for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the sample(s) collected at St. Elizabeth School were as follows:

9.7 parts per billion (ppb) SE-110
10.6 parts per billion (ppb) SE-110 Class
9.9 parts per billion (ppb) SE-105 RR
6.9 parts per billion (ppb) SE-117
*21.8 parts per billion (ppb) *SE-121*
17.4 parts per billion (ppb) SE-126LT
21.2 parts per billion (ppb) SE-126RT
12.2 parts per billion (ppb) SE-135
10.3 parts per billion (ppb) SE-200 E.
24.2 parts per billion (ppb) SE-202
15.8 parts per billion (ppb) SE-211
18.7 parts per billion (ppb) SE-215
8.8 parts per billion (ppb) SE-216
10.9 parts per billion (ppb) SE-219
8.3 parts per billion (ppb) SE-230
*18.6 parts per billion (ppb) *SE-231*
8.7 parts per billion (ppb) SE-232
19.5 parts per billion (ppb) SE-233
12.5 parts per billion (ppb) SE-912 BB
9.1 parts per billion (ppb) SE-1st Boy's LT
7.5 parts per billion (ppb) SE-1st RR RT by Cafe
15.2 parts per billion (ppb) SE-KIT Hand Sink
6.2 parts per billion (ppb) SE-KIT Pot Sink
*11.3 parts per billion (ppb) *SE-KIT Prep Sink*
8.8 parts per billion (ppb) SE-Board Rm

*outlet initially passed in 2018 but did not pass after HB636 retroactively changed the acceptable levels of lead prior to 2021

ACTION LEVEL (AL)
Effective June 1, 2021, the State's AL for lead in drinking water samples collected from outlets in school buildings has been lowered to 5 ppb. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation of drinking water outlets.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD
Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD
There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These sources include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN
Since learning of the results from the water testing, SES has taken the following actions:
1. Notifying parents, employees, MSDE, MDE, and the Health Department of the results.
2. Posted signage reminding anyone in the building which outlets may be used for water consumption.
3. The school is replacing the faucets in the kitchen and working with a company to identify the sources of lead that may be contributing to lead in the water.

NEXT STEPS
Since none of the outlets are currently being used for drinking, the signage will remain in place. The school will continue to work with a company to identify the source of the lead in some of the water outlets.

TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:
1. Run water to flush out lead**:** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.

Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For additional information, please contact Anant Saran, Director of Finance and Operations at (410) 889-5054. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead. If you are concerned about exposure; contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.