

NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF
School #68 – Westminster Community School
Lead Testing of School Drinking Water
09/01/2023

To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above the action level, the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is first draw testing of school drinking water for lead?

The schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time, a first draw sample.

Which outlets exceeded the action level during first draw testing?

Sample ID	Location	Lead Result mg/l
4	Gym Office*	0.018*
5	Assistant Principal *	0.013*
6	Library Basement Men Bath*	0.016*
7	Library Basement Women Bath*	0.011*
10	Exterior in playground area (external hose bib)	0.022*
11	Exterior right of front main entrance (external hose bib)	0.027*
	*handwashing station not accessible to students	

*Revisions to Public Health Law (PHL) §1110, which governs school potable water testing and standards, went into effect December 22, 2022. The key revisions to the law which will require changes to Subpart 67-4 include:

- The revised action level of lead in drinking is 5 parts per billion (ppb), reduced from 15 ppb.

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level were removed from service, unless an outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case a sign will be posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

What are other sources of lead exposure?

Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing and lead in soil and dust due to the historical use of lead in gasoline and paint. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Additional Resources

<https://www3.erie.gov/envhealth/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program>