

High Bridge School District Testing and Results

May 16, 2017

Dear High Bridge School District Community:

Our school district is committed to the safety of the community's schools, and as part of this commitment, we recently conducted lead testing in both the Elementary and Middle Schools. The results are posted on our webpage for both schools.

What do the results mean?

47 samples were collected from the Elementary School, and 22 were collected from the Middle School. The results showed 2 areas in the Elementary School kitchen that showed lead levels above the 20 ppb mark. Both were in unused outlets, and both have subsequently been turned off with signs posted. While it was not necessary to test the Science Lab sinks in the Middle School, as part of the district's commitment to safety, those sinks were tested and determined to have elevated levels of lead. The water has been turned off temporarily to the Science Lab sinks, but when they are restored over the summer, there will be signs posted that the water is not for drinking purposes.

What are the health effects of Lead?

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. 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.

How Can I Learn More?

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at the school district's administrative office, which is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on our Web site at (www.hbschools.org). For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Gregory Hobaugh, Ed.D at 908-638-4103. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

Gregory Hobaugh, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools