

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

HIGH BRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

50 Thomas Street
High Bridge, NJ 08829
Ph: 908-638-4101
Fx: 908-638-4211



HIGH BRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

40 Fairview Avenue
High Bridge, NJ 08829
Ph: 908-638-4105
Fx: 908-638-4260

Gregory A. Hobaugh, Ed.D.
Superintendent /Elementary School
Principal

Lisa M. Fallon
Director of Special Education

Richard J. Kolton
Middle School Principal

Emma Alparone
Elementary School Assistant Principal

December 21, 2021

Dear High Bridge School District Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, we recently tested our schools' drinking water for lead. The results for both schools have been posted to our district website.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations High Bridge School District will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within High Bridge School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets.

It is important to note that the sink/bubbler combinations located in the classrooms and the hallway bubbler drinking fountains have not been in use since March, 2019. This has resulted in the elevated lead readings. These outlets have since been capped and are not in use. The High Bridge School District will be installing filtered filling stations in both of the school buildings, along with a water main inlet filtration system.

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 of age. 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. 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. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

For More Information

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 website 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 A. Hobaugh, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools