

DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

"A Place to Grow"

www.dps170.org

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Dear Parents or Guardians:

Testing of drinking water sources at **Jefferson Elementary School** was performed on December 2, 2017. The testing is required by The Lead in Drinking Water Testing Bill (LDWTB) which was signed into law by Governor Bruce Rauner effective January 17, 2017.

The LDWTB requires elementary school buildings constructed prior to January 1, 2000 serving 5th grade and below to test the following sources;

- Drinking fountain and drinking sources in buildings
- Classroom sinks in classroom under 1st grade (kindergarten and pre-kindergarten)

Water testing followed protocol recommended by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the LDWTB. All water sources have two samples collected. The first collection at each source is a "first draw" sample. Water collection occurs in first draw samples after sources were unused for at least eight (8) hours. The second sample at that source is collected after 30 seconds of flushing. The two (2) samples are intended to help identify if any concentrations are originating from the fixture or the potable water piping leading to the fixture.

These tests are important to conduct since lead is a toxic metal that is harmful to human health. Young children, those 6 years and younger, are at particular risk for lead exposure because they have frequent hand-to-mouth activity and absorb lead more easily than do adults. Children's nervous systems are still undergoing development and thus are more susceptible to the effects of toxic agents. Lead is also harmful to the developing fetuses of pregnant women.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has developed the following guidance for reducing lead in the drinking water in schools;

["3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools: Revised Technical Guidance: Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\): October 2006 Version"](#)

While there is no known safe level of lead in drinking water, the guidance lists a recommended action level of 20.0 parts per billion (ppb) of lead. Effectively when lead concentrations are at 20.0 ppb or greater some action should be taken to reduce the concentration in the affected outlets.

Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.

The LDWTB requires the District to provide notification to parents identifying each location with a detected concentration exceeding 5.0 ppb. The concentrations of lead in samples at the following location(s) exceeded 5.0 ppb:

- JCS-8A: first draw sample from the sink in Room 31
- JCS-9A: first draw sample from the sink in Room 32
- JCS-19A: first draw sample from the sink in Room 4
- JCS-20A: first draw sample from the sink in Room 2
- JCS-24A: first draw sample from the sink in Room 7
- JCS-28A: first draw sample from the sink in Room 54
- JCS-30A: first draw sample from the sink in Room 50
- JCS-31A: first draw sample from the sink in Room 56
- JKS-35A: first draw sample from the kitchen sink hose

The majority of sources that exceeded the USEPA's recommended action level are not regularly used as a drinking water source. Based upon the results of this testing the District is taking the following steps:

1. Sinks that exceed the EPA action level of 20 ppb are being labeled to avoid using as a drinking or cooking source and taken out of service.
2. The District has updated its preventative maintenance and inspection procedures to include additional inspections and flushing of all drinking sources.

A complete copy of the water testing report is available on the District website (<http://www.dps170.org/sites/dps170.org/files/jeff-water.pdf>).

If you should have any questions regarding the water testing that was performed you can contact **Kevin Schultz, Director of Buildings and Grounds, at 815-285-4222.**

For additional information about lead in drinking water you can visit the USEPA's website;

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>