



Dear JSD Families and Staff-

The Jennings School District is committed to the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. In accordance with the new Missouri law, "Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act", we had a state approved environmental firm, OCCU-TEC initiate and complete the testing of our water. More specifically, every water outlet source and food preparation area in our schools and buildings were sampled and tested to determine if the lead concentration in the water was above the required level of five parts per billion (5 ppb). The 5 ppb level required by the state of Missouri is well below the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommended level of 15 ppb.

Missouri law specified that all PreK-12th grade schools receiving state funding had a testing completion date of August 1, 2024. We responded to this quickly in an effort to ensure continuous protocols are in place to remediate any concerns immediately for the safety and wellbeing of all JSD students and staff.

Of the 423 water outlets tested, ~70% (312 outlets) met the new Missouri statutory level of 5 ppb or less. Notably, aside from one, all designated drinking fountains in school buildings that are in use, tested below the 5ppb standards.

Upon receiving the results on October 6, 2023, each of these water sources that tested above the statutory level of 5 ppb will be either taken out of service by our district facilities team or had signage placed that indicate it is not for drinking---hand washing or lab use only. Outlets identified as a drinking water source or food preparation source that tested over the Missouri statutory level of 5 ppb will be remediated then re-tested to ensure the issue has been resolved. We will communicate additional results after re-testing takes place as well as remediation steps.

We will work diligently to rectify every outlet identified as a drinking water source or food preparation source that is out of compliance, bringing each identified source up to code. In the interim, all students and staff will continue to have access to a variety of water outlets that are in compliance, throughout the school.

[Click here to review the results of each building.](#)

#### Additional Resources

In many instances, lead in water is the result of corrosion, or the wearing away, of lead-containing materials in the water distribution system such as pipes and faucets. Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be "lead-free". The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead-free". While there are fewer amounts of lead used in newer water distribution systems, corrosion may still occur. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for long periods of time, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water.

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead. According to the EPA ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)), children of any age are susceptible to the effects of lead, with children under the age of 6 being most at risk.

Helpful Quick Links:

Official statute language - <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=160.077&srch=y>

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

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

- <https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/lead/publications.php>

St. Louis County Department of Health Lead Information - <https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/public-health/environmental-services/healthy-homes/lead-poisoning-prevention/>