April 24, 2025

Paulsboro Public Schools
Paulsboro Junior/Senior High School
662 North Delaware Street
Paulsboro, NJ 08066

Dear Paulsboro Junior/Senior High School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, and in accordance with the Department of Education regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4, Epic Environmental Services, LLC tested our building's drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the Paulsboro Public Schools will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/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 in Paulsboro Public Schools. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 49 outlets sampled at the Paulsboro Junior/Senior High School, two first draw sample tested above the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]). Of the follow-up flush samples analyzed, zero tested above the lead action level.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead with the associated first draw and follow-up flush sample lead levels, as well as what temporary remedial action that Paulsboro Public Schools has taken - or plans to take - to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l	Follow-up flush Result in µg/l	Remedial Action
Kettle Filler - Kitchen ID# PHS-02-KF-KIT	34.1	1.14	LOCATION REMOVED FROM USE UNTIL FURTHER TESTING
Sink – Home Economics ID# PHS-02-SO-HOEC5	759	12.1	LOCATION REMOVED FROM USE UNTIL FURTHER TESTING

Summary of Actions Taken

The following actions were taken regarding the Paulsboro Junior/Senior High School's lead in school drinking water exceedance:

1. All drinking water outlets were immediately shut off where any first draw test result revealed lead concentrations greater than 15µg/l (ppb);
2. Paulsboro Public Schools will install certified lead-reducing point-of-use (POU) filter drinking water units to replace all existing units tested above the action level; and
3. Alternate drinking water is being provided to students and staff of the school from other existing outlets tested below lead action levels in any test.

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.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers, and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily because of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at www.paulsboro.k12.nj.us. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Derek Gieschen at the Facilities Department, 856-423-2222 X1231.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at **www.epa.gov/lead**, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phillip C. Neff, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools