
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 12:43 PM
To: Krisztian, George (DEQ)
Cc: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: FW: NEWS: Latest updates from DEQ water testing at Flint Schools

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)
Subject: NEWS: Latest updates from DEQ water testing at Flint Schools

Greetings. This is to alert you that the DEQ today posted its latest report from water tests at Flint schools. The report from Eisenhower Elementary is enclosed, and now available on the state's Flint water website, www.Michigan.gov/flintwater

This testing is different from the surveillance testing done for compliance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule. It involves selecting specific sites within each school (faucets and drinking fountains) and performing repeated tests to check for lead exposure at initial draws and subsequent draws over several minutes. Additionally, state teams are performing extended water draws at strategically selected locations to identify lead components deeper in the school's plumbing infrastructure.

State teams have now completed sampling at eight Flint schools, and a clear pattern is emerging: Old faucets and drinking fountains are a potential source for lead exposure. The good news is that replacing these outdated faucets is inexpensive compared to addressing major plumbing and is effective at eliminating lead exposure. The other good news is that, when run for a few minutes, presence of lead in the sampling drops to minimal or non-detection levels.

This news should also be of value to residents in older homes, whether in Flint or anywhere in the state. Old faucets likely contain brass components that can impart lead into water. Anyone concerned about lead exposure in water can take simple steps to build awareness of their exposure and prevent it.

- Free water testing is available to any Flint resident. More than 500 residents have taken advantage of this program since September. The results of that testing are regularly updated on the state's website.
- Free blood lead level testing is available through Genessee County Health Department. Results of that testing also are available on the state's website.
- Educational materials are available to help residents learn more about lead exposure and how to prevent it. On the website.

Experts with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' Plumbing division offer the following advice for concerned homeowners:

Household Plumbing Tips from LARA

- Check and clean aerator screens in faucets around the house. Screens can sometimes contain a buildup of lead contaminants.
- Inspect household plumbing for lead solder. Solder joints connect pipes in household water distribution systems. If your house was built before 1987, your plumbing may have lead solder.
- Look at the home water service pipes that connect the water main in the street to the household plumbing. Homes built in the mid-1950s may still have lead service pipes.
- Call a professional. Have your home inspected by a licensed plumbing contractor to determine the features of your household plumbing. To verify if a plumbing contractor is licensed, visit: www.lara.state.mi.us/bcclicense/

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