



# *Wilmington, Massachusetts*

## **NOTICE REGARDING DRINKING WATER TESTING IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

On November 28, 2017 the Wilmington Public Buildings Department continued its proactive testing of drinking water for lead and copper in our School buildings. In 2016, the Public Buildings Department applied for, and received, a grant through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) that provides technical assistance with laboratory analysis to assess lead and copper in drinking water at all our school buildings. For fixtures that were identified as having test results at or exceeding Action Levels for copper and lead, corrective measures were taken.

The MassDEP recommends testing every three years, however the Public Buildings Department will be testing annually to monitor levels of lead and copper in drinking water in our School buildings. Testing was completed at the Boutwell Early Childhood Center, Wildwood Early Childhood Center, Shawsheen Elementary School, Woburn Street Elementary School, West Intermediates School and North Intermediate School. Results for the Middle School and High School are pending.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the MassDEP have established what is known as an Action Level for copper and lead in drinking water at schools and child care facilities. This Action Level is not a maximum contaminant level (MCL) and an action level exceedance is not a violation of any law or regulation. It does, however, require that the town work to mitigate the effects including regular monitoring, water treatment, public education, or replacement of plumbing or fixtures. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials, most notably the solder used in plumbing, not from the public water supply itself. The Department of Public Works is required to test the drinking water supply and has been doing so in compliance with EPA and MassDEP regulation since 1992.

No drinking water sources at any of our schools had copper levels that exceeded the Action Level for copper in drinking water of .13 milligrams per liter. However, twelve of the 61 water fixtures recently sampled had lead levels slightly above the Action Level for lead of .015 milligrams per liter. The sources that had elevated levels are shown below.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Results (mg/L)</b>	<b>Action Level (mg/L)</b>
Shawsheen – kitchen sink @ center island	.038	.015
Shawsheen – kitchen sink back wall (right)	.060	.015
Boutwell – kitchen sink back wall	.025	.015

North Intermediate – water cooler near kitchen	.019	.015
North Intermediate – kitchen sink back wall (left)	.016	.015
West Intermediate – nurse’s office sink	.016	.015
West Intermediate – room 112 sink @ hallway wall	.023	.015
West Intermediate – room 112 sink back wall left	.018	.015
West Intermediate –room 112 sink back wall center	.021	.015
West Intermediate – room 112 sink back wall near window	.027	.015
West Intermediate – gym water cooler	.066	.015
West Intermediate – band room sink	.024	.015

Lead is not in the Town’s water supply but due to the age of these buildings, plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain lead, resulting in this increase in the lead content in the tap water. The Town is taking these results seriously and has moved immediately to safeguard the health of students and staff by taking the steps outlined below.

1. We have removed from service all fixtures with lead levels over the action level.
2. We will retest all impacted fixtures.
3. If initial test results are confirmed fixtures will be replaced.
4. We will continue to follow the required MassDEP sampling protocols for testing lead and copper. The Public Buildings Department will continue to test annually rather than once every three years as recommended by MassDEP.

Please know that even though the lead levels just slightly exceeded the action levels, we will be addressing all impacted fixtures. In addition, before consuming water from a fixture it is recommended that water be run from the faucet for a brief period of time.

For more information on Lead or Copper in School Drinking water visit the following website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html>

If you have any questions on this information please do not hesitate to contact George Hooper, Superintendent of Public Buildings (978-658-3017), Joseph Lobao, Public Works Business & Utilities Manager (978-658-4711) or Paul Ruggiero, Interim School Superintendent for Wilmington Public Schools (978-694-6000).