

Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S) Georgetown Preparatory School

ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. From March 19 through April 24, 213 lead water samples were collected from Georgetown Preparatory. Of these lead water samples, 31 had levels of lead exceeding the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the sample(s) collected at Georgetown Preparatory School were as follows:

ID Number	Building	Area	Level (ppb)	Resolution
1. W06	Boland	Kitchen Sink E	25.9	Repaired
2. W31	Boland	West Suite Bathroom Sink	21.3	Repaired
3. W33	Boland	West Suite Closet Sink B	42.8	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
4. W45	Boland	Drinking Fountain A-top	21.2	Removed
5. W52	Boland	Drinking Fountain A	21.2	Removed
6. W79	Chapel	Chapel Sink	22.7	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
7. W94	Boland	Student Shower Room Sink B	144	Repaired
8. W131	George Center	Kitchen Sink E	51.7	Repaired
9. W132	George Center	Kitchen Sink F	28.4	Repaired
10. W135	George Center	Hot Coffee Machine	28.3	Removed
11. W142	MacKavanagh	International Classroom Sink	29.6	Removed
12. W151	MacKavanagh	Room 303 Sink B	80.6	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
13. W152	MacKavanagh	Room 303 Sink C	34.7	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
14. W159	MacKavanagh	Room 303 Sink J	813	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
15. W169	MacKavanagh	Room 201 Sink D	27.6	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
16. W175	MacKavanagh	Room 204 Sink B	52.	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
17. W176	MacKavanagh	Room 204 Sink C	22.3	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
18. W177	MacKavanagh	Room 204 Sink D	50.3	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
19. W185	Haas	Conference Room Sink	20.5	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
20. W193	Hanley	Outside Spigot (Back)	26.8	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
21. W194	George Center	Outside Spigot (Side)	21.7	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
22. W195	George Center	Outside Spigot (Side)	31.6	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
23. W196	George Center	Outside Spigot (Front)	225	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
24. W198	George Center	Outside Spigot (Side)	21.7	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
25. W200	Gunlocke	Outside Spigot (Back)	21.2	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
26. W201	Gunlocke	Outside Spigot (Back)	38.6	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
27. W204	MacKavanagh	Outside Spigot (Back)	60.5	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
28. W205	MacKavanagh	Outside Spigot (Front)	287	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
29. W206	MacKavanagh	Outside Spigot (Front)	33.2	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
30. W207	MacKavanagh	Outside Spigot (Back)	112	Labeled "Non-Consumption"
31. W209	Boland	Outside Spigot (Back)	20.9	Labeled "Non-Consumption"

ACTION LEVEL (AL)

The AL is 20 ppb for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN

Elevated drinking water source locations that exceeded the 20.5 ppb action level included **W33, W79, W151, W152, W159, W169, W175, W176, W177, and W185** were Non-Consumption Sources. Signage was placed near the source and is visible to all users of the individual source. Signage included "Source for Non-Consumption use only- Do Not Drink." All Non-Consumption Sources were replaced and retested and found to be in normal limits after retest.

Elevated drink water source locations that exceeded the 20.5 ppb action level included **W193, W194, W195, W196, W198, W200, W201, W204, W205, W206, W207, and W209** were Non-Consumption exterior spigot sources. After the test indicated elevated results, all the sources were immediately shut off. All exterior sources are deemed "Non-Consumption use only."

Elevated drinking water source locations that exceeded the 20.5 ppb action level included **W135, W132, W131, W94, W52, W45, W33, W31, W06, and W142** were Consumption Sources. After the test indicated elevated results, all the sources were immediately shut off.

Source **W52** and **W135** was removed after initial shut off.

Source **W142** was replaced and retested after initial shut off. The retest showed elevated levels and the source was removed.

Sources **W94, W132, W131, W52, W45, W31, and W06** were all replaced and retested after initial shut off. All of these sources were found to be in the normal limits after replacements and retesting.

NEXT STEPS

For next steps, Georgetown Preparatory School will regularly monitor drink water source locations and conduct periodic testing. For all interior non-consumption sources, signage will be visible to read "Source for Non-Consumption use only- Do Not Drink."

TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:

1. Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.

Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. For additional information, please contact **Georgetown Prep** at georgetownprep@gprep.org or (301) 493-5000. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead. If you are concerned about exposure; contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.