

# A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

## Cornwall Central High School

### Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

March 7, 2024

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. Revisions effective March 22, 2022, reduce the lead action level in drinking water from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb)<sup>1</sup>, which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter (µg/L), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

#### Rule of Thumb<sup>2</sup>

- Any outlet in a room or office within a school not used by students (pre-kindergarten through grade 12), for drinking or cooking, does not require sampling. An example is custodial storage closest dispensing cleaning chemicals
- **Lavatory Sinks:** Toilet rooms and bathrooms are building environments that can present unique challenges to water portability. These challenges are reflected in various code provisions that prohibit the installation of drinking facilities, drinking fountains, water coolers, and water dispensers within toilet rooms and bathrooms. NYS DOH would not object to designating these outlets as not applicable where controls (e.g., education and signage) exist to prevent the consumption of water. "Handwashing Only, Not for Drinking" signs have been posted
- **Dishwashing outlets:** If an outlet is designated for dishwashing only and involves no opportunity for drinking or cooking including food preparation, the outlet does not require sampling.
- **Science/Art sinks:** Classrooms in these settings prohibit eating and/or drinking. The sinks within these rooms are not for drinking or cooking. "Handwashing Only, Not for Drinking" signs have been posted.
- **Classroom sinks:** If the outlet is used for drinking and/or cooking, it must be sampled. However, if the school has controls in place to prevent the consumption of water, Superintendents or their designees have the discretion to exclude these outlets from sampling and include them in the Remedial Action Plan.

#### What is first draw testing of school drinking water for lead?

The "on-again, off-again" nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This "first draw" sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

#### What are the results of the first draw testing? Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

Location	Sampling Dates	Results PPB	Summary of Results
Bottle Filler A-Wing Main Lobby #1	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain A-Wing Main Lobby #1(left)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain A-Wing Main Lobby #2(right)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Kitchen Prep Sink by Electrical Panels	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Kitchen Island Prep Sink in Front of Stove	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Kitchen Pot Filler at Kettle next to Steamer	2/22/2024	4.8	
Kitchen Pot Filler next to Stand Mixer	2/22/2024	2.2	
Kitchen Pot Filler Large Kettle	2/22/2024	2.2	
Kitchen Serving Area Sink by Coolers	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Kitchen Serving Area Back Corner Faucet	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Kitchen Ice Machine	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Snack Bar Coffee Pot	2/22/2024	None Detected	

<sup>1</sup> Action Level lowered from 15 ppb to 5 ppb. Revisions to the Public Health Law (PHL) Section 1110 went into effect on December 22, 2022

<sup>2</sup> New York State Department of Health Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Program Guidance Manual; November 6, 2023

Band Room Classroom Sink	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Ice Machine A-Wing Athletic Entrance	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Bottle Filler A-Wing Locker Room Hallway #1	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain A-Wing Locker Room Hallway #1(left)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Bottle Filler A-Wing Locker Room Hallway #2	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain A-Wing Locker Room Hallway #2(Right)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Nurse's Main Area Office Sink	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Nurse's Exam Room Sink	2/22/2024	None Detected	
A-Wing A3 Conference Room Sink (Filtered)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain B7-Weight Room #1(left) High	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain B7-Weight Room # 2(right) Low	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain B-Wing Pool Area #1(left) High	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain B-Wing Pool Area # 2 (right) Low	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Main Office Kitchenette Sink	2/22/2024	1.0	
Fountain B-Wing near B4:Stairway 1- #1	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain B-Wing near B4:Stairway 1- #2	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain C-Wing Center Lobby #1(left)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain C-Wing Center Lobby #2 (right)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
C-Wing: Library Office Sink	2/22/2024	None Detected	
C-Wing: Guidance Kitchenette Sink	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain D-Wing Center Lobby #1(left)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain D-Wing Center Lobby #2(right)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
D-Wing Faculty Room Kitchen Sink	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Fountain E-Wing Center Lobby #1(left)	Not in Service		
Fountain E-Wing Center Lobby #2(right)	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Room E2 Sink Classroom Sink	2/22/2024	None Detected	
E-Wing Faculty Room Kitchen Sink	2/22/2024	None Detected	
A-Wing Athletic Entrance Hose Bib	2/22/2024	7.9	Passed EPA; Results fails NYS standards
B-Wing Gymnasium Entrance Hose Bib	2/22/2024	None Detected	
Yard Hydrant: Track (Lower)	Out of Service		
Yard Hydrant: Baseball Dugout	Out of Service		
Yard Hydrant: Softball Varsity Dugout	Out of Service		
Yard Hydrant: Softball JV Field	Out of Service		

**“Non-applicable outlets”**

Main Lobby Women's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Women's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Women's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Women's Gang Bath Sink #4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Women's Gang Bath Sink #5	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Men's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Men's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Men's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Men's Gang Bath Sink #4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Lobby Men's Gang Bath Sink #5	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Kitchen Hand wash Sink by Lockers	Tempered Outlet	N/A	
Kitchen Dish wash Sink 1	Dishwashing outlet	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Kitchen Dish wash Sink 2	Dishwashing outlet	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Kitchen Dish wash Sink 3	Dishwashing outlet	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Kitchen Dish wash Sink 4 Sprayer	Dishwashing outlet	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Kitchen Sprayer at Dishwasher Machine	Dishwashing outlet	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Kitchen Hand wash Sink by Dishwashing	Dishwashing outlet	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only

Bathroom Sink outside Kitchen	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Snack Bar Hand Wash Sink	Tempered Outlet	N/A	
Drama Department Closet Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
A-Wing Girls Team Locker Room Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
A-Wing Boys Team Locker Room Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
A-Wing Women's Hallway, Locker Room Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
A-Wing Men's Hallway, Locker Room Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Nurse's Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room A15 Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Office Women's Faculty Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Main Office Men's Faculty Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Girls' Locker Room Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Boys' Locker Room Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Coach's Office Bath Sink #1 (Left)	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Coach's Office Bath Sink #2 (Right)	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B1 Hand wash Sink	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B1 Slop Sink	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B2 Sink 1	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B2 Sink 2	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B4 Sink 1	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B4 Sink 2	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B5 Sink 1	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B5 Sink 2	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B5 Sink 3	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room B6 Sink 1	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
B-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room C7 Prep Room Sink 1	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room C7 Prep Room Sink 2	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room C18 Prep Room Sink	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
Room C19 Prep Room Sink	Science/Art sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing: Bath Sink between C2 and C4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
C-Wing: Women's Faculty Bath Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only

C-Wing: Men's Faculty Bath Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing: Women's Faculty Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
D-Wing: Men's Faculty Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing Women's Gang Bath Sink #4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #1	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #2	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #3	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing Men's Gang Bath Sink #4	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing: Women's Faculty Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only
E-Wing: Men's Faculty Bathroom Sink	Lavatory Sinks	Posted	Posted: Do Not Drink; Hand wash Only

### What is being done in response to the results?

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (15 ppb) were removed from service, unless an outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.



Location	Immediate Action	Remediation
A-Wing Athletic Entrance Hose Bib	Handwashing Only	Review
Fountain E-Wing Center Lobby #1(left)	Not in Service	Test once repaired
Yard Hydrant: Track (Lower)	Not in Service	Test once repaired
Yard Hydrant: Baseball Dugout	Not in Service	Test once repaired
Yard Hydrant: Softball Varsity Dugout	Not in Service	Test once repaired
Yard Hydrant: Softball JV Field	Not in Service	Test once repaired

### What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

### What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building's plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

### Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors; for example, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

### **Additional Resources**

**For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results,** contact John Pinckney at (845)534-8009, ext. 5228, or go to our school website: [www.cornwallschools.com](http://www.cornwallschools.com)

**For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:**

[http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead\\_testing\\_of\\_school\\_drinking\\_water.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm)

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

**For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, go to:**

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

**For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":**

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (available in ten languages).

*Rule of Thumb: Any outlet in a room or office within a school not used by students (pre-kindergarten through grade 12), for drinking or cooking, does not require sampling. An example is custodial storage closet.*

*Science/Art sinks: Classrooms in these settings prohibit eating and/or drinking. The sinks within these rooms are not used for drinking or cooking. "Handwashing Only, Not for Drinking" signs have been posted in the science labs and art rooms.*