

May 19, 2023

Dear NSD Families and Staff,

I am writing to all NSD families and staff as a follow-up to notifications to nine of our school communities about the results of testing for lead in drinking fountains and share important information on lead in drinking water in schools.

Before I continue, I want to assure you that we have received word from officials that lead thresholds have recently changed to be much more stringent, which is a good thing, and that previous tests of drinking fountains in our schools have been below established thresholds. Although there is no safe level of lead exposure, I say with confidence that the fountains testing above the threshold in these nine schools were identified to be rarely used fixtures, and most students are using filtered water bottle fill stations.

Public health officials assured us that while lead in tap water is rarely the single cause of lead poisoning, it can increase an individual's total lead exposure, particularly in infants. I encourage you to read the guidance below from the NH Department of Health and Human Services that addresses lead in water for children under six as well as children six years of age and older. If you have health-related questions about possible lead ingestion in your children, we encourage you to contact your health care provider.

- [NH Department of Health and Human Services Lead in School Drinking Water Guidance](#)
 - [for children younger than 6 years of age](#)
 - [for children older than 6 years of age](#)
 - [lead poisoning](#)

All test sample results, including the results of testing in our schools, and additional resources from the Department of Environment Services (NHDES) can be viewed any time by visiting gettheleadoutnh.org; please use filters to see individual Nashua school testing results. We encourage families to view the results for their schools.

Officials tell us lead in drinking fountains is primarily a result of corrosion or the wearing away of materials containing lead. The school drinking fountains that tested above the minimum standards have been covered, and we are following recommended action and remediation, including retesting. To date, 27 of 222 samples have come back with a level above the new lead threshold established in 2022. The nine schools that have had one or more samples come back above the new threshold include: Bicentennial, Birch Hill, Broad Street, Charlotte Avenue, Elm Street Middle, Fairgrounds Elementary, Ledge Street, New Searles, and Sunset Heights. There have been two additional schools tested where all sample results were below the established thresholds: Fairgrounds Middle and Mt. Pleasant.

We continue to work with our public health and environmental health officials as we take action to abate the lead in school drinking fountains. If you have questions, please contact Rene Beaudoin, Deputy Health Officer for the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services, at beaudoinr@nashuanh.gov or me at andradem@nashua.edu.

Sincerely, Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools