

# Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

*Updated in response to legislation effective as of June 1, 2021*

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)**

### ***Bell Grove Elementary 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. Per Maryland House Bill 636, the Action Level was lowered from 20 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb for lead in consumable water outlets in school buildings. As a result, AACPS reviewed the most recent water testing results to identify what outlets tested between 5-20 ppb. The following sample(s) that were collected during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years have exceeded the updated Action Level:

<b>Sample</b>	<b>Outlet Key Code</b>	<b>Fixture Area</b>	<b>Description</b>
97	NO	Nurses Office	Nurse Office Room 107 Sink

#### ***Outlet Key Codes:***

*BS – Bathroom Sink*

*CF – Combination Fountain*

*CS – Combination Sink*

*DF – Drinking Fountain*

*HE – Home Economics*

*IM – Ice Machine*

*KS – Kitchen Sink*

*NO – Nurses Office*

*OT – Other*

*TL – Teachers Lounge*

#### **ACTION LEVEL (AL)**

Effective June 1, 2021, the State's AL for lead in drinking water samples collected from consumable outlets in school buildings has been lowered to 5 ppb. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation of drinking water outlets.

#### **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 sources 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 workplace 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**

All consumable outlets exceeding the Action Level were turned off.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Any consumable outlets exceeding the Action Level will be removed or replaced and retested. Any combination sink (consisting of a drinking fountain and hand sink) that exceeded the Action Level will be modified as a non-consumable outlet and a “Hand Washing Only” sign will be applied.

**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**

Please contact the AACPS Environmental Health and Safety Office at 443-770-5950 or visit the website [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org) 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](http://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.