Important Information about Lead in Drinking Water at Southwestern High School ONLY

January 24, 2017

On September 6, 2016, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed emergency legislation into law requiring all public schools to test drinking water fixtures for lead. Southwestern Central School District sampled our water fixtures on October 14, 2016. We sampled all drinking fountains, sinks and other water fixtures and found that some of them contained elevated levels of lead. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. This report provides information about lead, our test results and what we are doing to reduce lead in our drinking water.

Background
These new regulations require all water fixtures on school property that could be used for drinking and cooking to be sampled for lead. The first round of samples is required to be collected in September and October 2016. Future samples must be collected every five years starting in 2020. If samples from fixtures contain lead above a certain level, referred to as the "Action Level" of 15 parts per billion (ppb) by the NYSDOH, then we must take measures to reduce lead in those fixtures.

Sources of Lead
Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Water in contact with copper plumbing with lead soldered joints or brass fixtures can leach lead out of the plumbing. The use of lead solder in plumbing was banned by EPA in 1987 and in 2014, EPA reduced the amount of lead that plumbing fixtures can contain from 8% to less than 1%. EPA estimates that 10 to 20% of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water and that infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40-60% of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

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 the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Even low levels of lead can affect adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Water sample results
We sampled 117 drinking water fixtures for lead and found that 16 samples exceeded the Action Level of 15ppb. A complete list of samples that exceeded the action level is provided in a table at the end of this report. Samples are required to be collected after the water has been motionless in the pipes for at least eight hours. These "first draw" water samples represent worst case condition because when the water is motionless it can leach lead out of the pipes and fixtures. The longer the water is motionless, the higher the possibility for lead leaching. Once water begins to flow through the pipes and fixtures, lead levels drop. Please note that all schools have had samples that exceeded the Action Level, especially at fixtures that are not routinely used. Samples were collected from some fixtures that are not used for drinking water and therefore did not require sampling. These samples include sources such as outside hose bibs and lab sinks. These additional, not required, samples are included and identified with an "*" in the list of results.

What is being done?
The following steps have been taken to reduce lead exposure from drinking water in a fixture that exceeded the Action Level:

1. If the fixture was a drinking fountain, a bubbler, a classroom or office sink, it was turned off immediately.
2. If the fixture was located in the kitchen, it was turned off immediately and an alternate water source was used for preparing food.
3. If the fixture was a bathroom sink or shower, notices were posted that the water should not be used for drinking.
4. If the fixture was a lab sink not used for drinking water such as in science labs, signs were posted that the water should not be used for drinking.
5. If the fixture was a custodial sink or other sink not used for drinking water, signs were posted that the water should not be used for drinking.

Further testing will be conducted on drinking water fixtures to determine if the source of lead is from the plumbing or from the fixture itself. If it is found to be from the fixture, then it will be scheduled for replacement and retested. If it is found to be from the plumbing, then consideration will be given to replacing the pipes with plastic or another approved material.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to Lead

1. ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
2. ***Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.*** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
3. ***Do not boil water to try and remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. ***Don't forget about other sources of lead*** including lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

Should your child be tested for Lead?
New York Public Health Law requires primary health care providers to screen each child for blood lead levels at one and two years of age. In addition, at each routine well-child visit, or at least annually if a child has not had routine well-child visits, primary health care providers assess each child between six-months and six years of age for high lead exposure. Children found to be at risk for high lead levels are screened or referred for lead screening. If your child has not had routine well-child visits and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact your local health department or health care provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

For more information
Please call us at (716)484-1136 or visit our website at www.swcsk12.org. We will keep parents, students and staff informed of the progress we make to reduce the lead in our drinking water by posting updates on our website and in our newsletters. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Division at 716-753-4481 or the New York State Department of Health at 518-402-7650 or by email at bpwsp@health.state.ny.us. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

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Summary of Sampling and Analysis

Total Number of Samples Collected by Building Classified by First Draw:

Building Name	Date of Sample Delivery	Total Number Samples Collected	First Draw Samples	
			Number of Samples Below Action level of 15 ppb	Number of Samples Above Action Level of 15 ppb
Southwestern High School	10/18/2016	117	101	16

Listing of Outlets Requiring Remediation:

Locations of Outlets Analyzed above the NYS Action Level of 15 parts per billion based upon Analysis of First Draw Samples				
Sample #	Sample Type	Classroom or other Location	Fixture/Outlet type	Laboratory Analysis in ppb
HS-17	First Draw	Room 126 Sink	Sink	38.1
HS-19	First Draw	Room 132 Sink	Sink	22.6
HS-20	First Draw	Room 132 Sink	Sink	18.0
HS-21	First Draw	Room 132 Sink	Sink	61.0
HS-27	First Draw	Custodial CL Slop Sink	Slop Sink	57.3
HS-29	First Draw	Room 147 Sink	Sink	15.3
HS-31	First Draw	Room 153 Sink	Sink	29.5
HS-34	First Draw	Room 151 Sink	Sink	16.5
HS-63	First Draw	Room 246 Sink	Sink	25.9
HS-69	First Draw	Room 245 Sink	Sink	29.4
HS-70	First Draw	Room 244 Sink	Sink	26.3
HS-71	First Draw	Room 243 Sink	Sink	48.6
HS-82	First Draw	Room 240 Sink	Sink	22.1
HS-103	First Draw	Room 225 Sink	Sink	204
HS-105	First Draw	Custodial CL Slop Sink	Slop Sink	19.6
HS-110	First Draw	Room 229 Sink	Sink	17.5

Please note that sample locations were transcribed by the laboratory from bottle labels on client provided samples.