

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Lead Water Sample Result

West Friendship Elementary School (PWSID# 1130008)

SAMPLE RESULT

On June 4, 2019, five (5) lead water samples were collected from West Friendship Elementary located at 12500 Frederick Road, West Friendship, MD 21794. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the Howard County Public School System to provide each customer served by the facility on a regular basis (e.g. employees, staff, students, etc.) the results of those lead samples. The lead results from the samples collected at the above address were as follows:

No lead was detected for each of the sample locations 2, 9, 25, 29, and 31. See attached floor plan for sample locations.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG) & ACTION LEVEL (AL)

The MCLG for lead is zero and the AL is 15 parts per billion (or 0.015 parts per million). The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. The AL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements which a water system must follow.

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. 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. 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.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE 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.
3. Look for alternative sources (e.g. bottled water) if lead levels are elevated.
4. Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

Please note that boiling water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact Safety, Environment and Risk Management at 410-313-6699. 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 or contact your health care provider.