

June 24, 2025

Buildings and Grounds Department
Manasquan High School
167 Broad Street
Manasquan, New Jersey 08736

Dear Manasquan High School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting the health and safety of every student, teacher, and staff member in our community. In service of that goal and to comply with United States Department of Education regulations, Manasquan Public Schools engaged an Environmental Consulting Firm to test our school's drinking water for the presence of lead.

Following instructions provided in Technical Guidance Documents developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile of each building in the Manasquan Public School District. Through this effort, we identified all drinking water and food preparation outlets present in each building. The Manasquan High School Plumbing Profile revealed the presence of thirty-three (33) drinking water outlets throughout the school. Water samples were collected from each identified outlet and analyzed for the presence of lead. Of the thirty-three (33) outlets sampled, analysis revealed that none of the outlet(s) exhibited lead levels above the Action Level established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for lead in drinking water of 15 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$).

Health Effects of Lead

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age. 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. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure are more susceptible to lead than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents. The results can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Mr. Matt Hudson at the Buildings and Grounds Department 732-539-3374.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at **www.epa.gov/lead**, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Goodall
Superintendent of Schools