Bergen County Special Services
Bergen County Technical Schools
Bergen Workforce Center

BERGEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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Vocational School

Bergen County Technical School District

Dear School Community:

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, the Bergen County Technical School District (BCTS) tested our school's drinking water for lead.

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the District completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the BCSS school district. Through this effort, we identified and tested all operational drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 32 samples taken at the Vocational School, all but 4 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 micrograms per liter [μg/L] or parts per billion [ppb]).

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Vocational School implemented immediate remedial measures for the 4 water outlets with results greater than the action level of 15 μg/L or ppb. Specifically, these 4 outlets were turned off and placed out of service.

Testing Results

The table below identifies the drinking water or food preparation outlets that tested above the 15 µg/L or ppb for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action was taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	Sample ID	First Draw Result in µg/L or ppb	Remedial Action
Storage Room 331B	P-275-KS-01	61.1	Placed out of Service
Room 332 Kitchen	P-275-KS-04	40.3	Placed out of Service
Room 332 Kitchen	P-275-KS-06	99.9	Placed out of Service
Room 332 Kitchen	P-275-KS-09	1,210	Placed out of Service

Long Term Solution

BCSS' environmental engineering consultants, T&M Associates, has recommended the following as long term solutions for these 4 outlets. They include,

1. If the outlet is determined not to be needed, outlet should be permanently placed out of service
2. If the outlet is needed, install a filtration system. Once installed, retest the outlet for filter effectiveness
3. If the outlet is needed for hand washing ONLY, label the outlet as such and not allow any the consumption of water

The District will determine the necessity of each outlet and take appropriate action.

The State of New Jersey requires the District to provide you with the following information regarding lead.

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 can be affected by low levels of lead more 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

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 healthcare provider.

A copy of the full report will be available once all testing is completed. We anticipate the full report will be available by the end of April 2024 and can be found in the school's central office or on the District's website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Wertheim

Principal