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School District of Poynette

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January 11, 2018

Dear Parents,

Student safety and security are always the priority of the District. Recently the district added a new preventative maintenance program that randomly tests water sources for lead. Currently, there are no requirements for public schools to test their water. The district was acting on its own behalf to initiate water testing. Our buildings and grounds professionals gathered water samples from 10 locations throughout the three buildings in the district. The samples were 'first draw' samples, after water sat in the fixture for an extended time. Often, this type of sampling results in higher positives. The samples were then sent to the State Environmental Testing laboratory.

The results came back yesterday and two of tests came in over the recommended EPA limit for lead: one at the High School and one at the Arlington Early Learning Center. The district took immediate steps to mitigate the situation by disabling or filtering the two locations.

I know this is troubling news, news that no one ever wants to hear. Be assured that the district takes this very seriously and is in contact with various agencies to create a plan. We are in the process of exploring both short and long term solutions to this issue that includes additional testing and remediation.

It is important to note that the District had previously received no complaints regarding water quality. Therefore, as you can imagine, these two test results caught the District by surprise.

Lead in the water can come from various sources. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, lead can be present in pipes, in the construction of fixtures such as faucets or fountains, and in the solder that makes connections and holds pipes together.

If you or your student feel more comfortable, water from home may be carried or kept in lockers/desks.

We'll be sure to keep you informed as we learn more, but I wanted to share the information we have and the District's immediate plans. We'll create and share resources via Campus email and the website over the next days and weeks.

I also encourage the community to explore resources:

EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/lead> and https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-08/documents/epa_lead_in_drinking_water_final_8.21.17.pdf

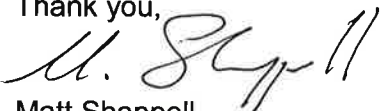
DNR: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingwater/lead.html>

Columbia County:

<http://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/hhs/Divisions/PublicHealth/LeadInformation/tabid/799/Default.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact me at mshap@poynette.k12.wi.us.

Thank you,



Matt Shappell
 District Administrator