

Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water

Valley Central Middle School found elevated levels of lead in drinking water during simple testing done on July 29, 2022 in Short Fountain by Room 229 and Short Fountain across from Room 111. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your 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 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.

SOURCES OF LEAD

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead exposure include

lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials.

Plumbing materials, including pipes, new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows pipes, fittings, and fixtures with up to 0.25 percent weighted average of lead to be identified as "lead-free." In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics.

Other sources include exposure in the work place (jobs that include house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, jewelry or pottery repair) and exposure from certain hobbies (such as stained glass or pottery, fishing, making or shooting firearms and collecting lead or pewter figurines), as lead can be carried on clothing and shoes. Children's hands or their toys can come into contact with lead in paint, dust and soil. Therefore, washing children's hands and their toys will help reduce the potential for lead exposure from these sources.

The Middle School well does not contain lead at its source of water. When water is in contact with pipe and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN YOUR WATER

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds [or insert a different flushing time if your system has representative data indicating a different flushing time would better reduce lead exposure in your community and if the State Primary Agency approves of the wording] 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; 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 remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.

4. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or <http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/> visit <http://www.nsf-certification/faucets-plumbing-certification/lead-older-homes>, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.



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 as part of routine well-child care. 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 who is at least six-months of age, but under six years of age, for high lead exposure. Each child found to be at risk for high lead exposure is screened or referred for lead screening.

If your child has not had routine well-child visits (since the age of one year) and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

What happened?

What is being done?

[It was brought to our attention by the Orange County Department of Health on April 12, 2023 during the fourth (4th) round of reduced triennial lead and copper monitoring for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Samples were collected from the ten (10) distribution taps on 7/29/22 with a copy of the laboratory analyses submitted to this department on April 12, 2023. At that time, it was determined that the 90th percentile lead sample (38.0 ug/l) exceeded the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) lead action level of 15 ug/l. The 90th percentile copper sample (1.47 mg/l) exceeded NYSDOH and USEPA copper action level of 1.3 mg/l.]
Locations with elevated lead levels were immediately taken out of service. [The system was flushed, and on May 19th, 2023 twenty (20) samples were taken. Samples results for the twenty (20) distribution samples were found acceptable (90th percentile levels for lead and copper below their respective action levels of 15ug/l and 1.3mg/l). No samples exceeded the action levels. A second set of twenty samples are to be collected between 7/1/23 and 12/31/23. We're working closely with our local health department and design professionals to meet state and federal standards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on lead in drinking water, contact your local health department at Orange County 845-291-2331 New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1 800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state 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 Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

Water System: Valley Central Middle School
State Water System ID: NY3515617
Date: April 12, 2023

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most homes have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some homes in the community have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under Federal law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water.

This program includes:

1. Corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water);
2. Source water treatment (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility); and
3. A public education program.

We are also required to replace the portion of each lead service line that we own if the line contributes lead concentrations of more than 15 ppb after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation.

This brochure also explains the simple steps you can take to protect yourself by reducing your exposure to **lead**.

You may add **your logo** here.

Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water

[Valley Central Middle School water system ID#3515617] found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some locations of the building. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. **Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water. June 13, 2023**

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.

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[Insert utility specific information describing your community's source water – e.g. "The source of water from XX Reservoir does not contain lead" or "Community X does not have any lead in its source water or water mains in the street."] When water is in contact with pipes [or service lines], and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Water

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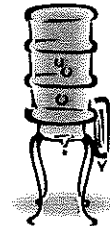
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[Lead levels have been low. Levels have risen recently due to low water usage during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Recently after normal water usage, lead levels have returned to low.]

For More Information

Call us at [845-457-2400 extension 16914] or For more information on lead in drinking water, contact your local health department or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1 800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state 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 Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.