

To the Students, Families, and Staff of Thomas C, Passios Elementary School:

During recent lead and copper sampling, some water taps at our Thomas C. Passios Elementary School had lead levels above the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) recommended certified laboratory detection limit of 1 ppb or .001 mg/L. The former action level for lead was 15 ppb. The Mass DEP LCCA program incorporates the revised EPA’s 3T guidance and moves toward the lowest possible measurable concentration (1 ppb). Copper levels did not exceeded the Massachusetts and federal Action Level of 1.3 milligrams per liter (ppm) for copper in drinking water at three locations. See results below:

Date Sample Collected	Location	Lead result in mg/L
June 4, 2020	Teacher Lunch Room 4	.0018
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 13	.0020
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 16	.0030
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 1	.0030
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 2	.0031
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 3	.0034
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 4	.0040
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 5	.0056
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 7	.0060
June 4, 2020	Sink Room 9	.0070

We would like to inform you about our plans to reduce potential exposure to lead and copper in drinking water at our school. The administration takes these results very seriously and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. The following information describes steps we are taking to address the issue of lead and copper in the water.

To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals (including woman who are pregnant or nursing), our school is working closely and cooperatively with MassDEP and others and taking actions as follows:

Only include applicable items

What we are doing:

1. We will continue a flushing and water usage plan to safeguard against lead and copper exposure from drinking water in the school at outlets that or had lead concentrations above the recommended certified laboratory detection limit of 1 ppb. This includes the daily flushing of faucets at sinks and the limitation of water consumption to cold-water faucets for food and beverage preparation.
2. We are implementing a public information process that will include distribution of outreach material to all students, parents, teachers, staff and local officials.
3. We have developed a sampling plan to conduct testing at outlets (faucets, water fountains, etc.) where students and staff get water for drinking, beverage preparation and cooking. We completed 100% testing in 2018 and are testing 1/3 of the fixtures each year in all schools since 2019.

4. Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead and copper exposure from drinking water at Thomas C. Passios Elementary School.

Copper: The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)¹ is 1.3 mg/l. When copper is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through service line or internal pipes or plumbing in buildings with copper and brass parts. *Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.*

Lead: The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for lead is zero. When lead is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through service lines or internal pipes or plumbing in buildings with lead pipes or plumbing with lead solder or brass. *Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.* Because lead may pose serious health risks, both the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that “there is no known safe level of lead in a child’s blood”².

A Reminder: The water system at the school is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. Plumbing systems also contain copper. If you have questions about lead or copper in your home’s water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.

If you have any questions on this information please contact John Londa, Director of Facilities at 978-2390-2351.

Sincerely,

John Londa
Director of Facilities
Lunenburg Public Schools

¹ The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

² <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>