

THE TINTON FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
658 TINTON AVENUE
TINTON FALLS, NJ 07724
(732) 460-2400
FAX (732) 542-1158
<http://tfs.k12.nj.us>

John P. Russo
Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth W. Cole
Director of Special Services

Tamar R. Sydney-Gens
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

September 6, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

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, adopted on June 30, 2016, the Tinton Falls School District completed testing our schools' drinking water for lead, between August 24 – 26, 2016, as previously outlined in my August 22nd letter. Please know that the Tinton Falls School District exceed the NJDOE regulations requiring drinking water testing by also testing all sinks in each school.

On Friday afternoon, September 2nd, 2016, the district received the results of the water testing for Mahala F. Atchison School. These results are listed below, along with the remedial actions taken. **Please note that none of the water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l [ppb] are drinking outlets or food preparation locations. It is important to know that per the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency, "Human skin does not absorb lead in water."** We will release the results of the testing from Swimming River and Tinton Falls Middle School when they are received. We expect to receive them in the near future.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a Lead Sample Plan for each of our buildings. Through this effort, we identified and tested all water outlets and food preparation outlets. Of the 133 samples taken at Mahala F. Atchison School, all but 8 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Tinton Falls School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Is this a drinking source or food preparation location?
Room 103 (bathroom sink)	27.3	No

THE TINTON FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
658 TINTON AVENUE
TINTON FALLS, NJ 07724
(732) 460-2400
FAX (732) 542-1158
<http://tfs.k12.nj.us>

John P. Russo
 Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth W. Cole
 Director of Special Services

Tamar R. Sydney-Gens
 Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Room 104 (sink)	15.3	No
Room 105 (bathroom sink)	102	No
Room 115 (sink)	19.1	No
Room 120 (sink)	70.5	No
Room 136 (bathroom sink)	306	No
Kitchen Sink #3	80.5	No – cleaning station, not food preparation
Girls Restroom Near Room 104 (sink ABS 100-16)	21.4	No

Remedial Action and Steps to be Taken

1. Per the N.J. Department of Education and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency, the recommendation is that signs be posted that state: DO NOT DRINK. SAFE FOR HANDWASHING. However, we are electing to turn off sinks if possible and/or cover them so that the sink cannot be accessed/used.
2. Each location will be re-tested as soon as possible.
3. If these results are above acceptable levels as outlined by the NJDEP, the fixture will be replaced and the location will be re-tested.
4. All other remedial action will be taken if the levels are still above the NJDEP requirements.

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 high levels of lead more than healthy adults.

THE TINTON FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

658 TINTON AVENUE

TINTON FALLS, NJ 07724

(732) 460-2400

FAX (732) 542-1158

<http://tfs.k12.nj.us>

John P. Russo
Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth W. Cole
Director of Special Services

Tamar R. Sydney-Gens
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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 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 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.

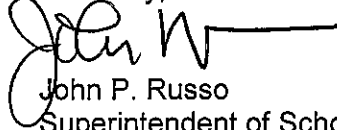
For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in the Business Office located in the Administrative Office for inspection by the public, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. The results are also available on our website at www.tfs.k12.nj.us, under the Parent Tab. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Tamar Sydney-Gens, Business Administrator, at 732-460-2406.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and health effects of lead, visit EPA's Website 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,



John P. Russo
Superintendent of Schools