

**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 9, 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Thursday afternoon, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the district received the results of the water testing for Swimming River School. These results are listed below, along with the remedial actions taken. **Please note that each of the water outlets except one that tested above the 15 µg/l [ppb] are not 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 have now received the results of testing for each school.

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 84 samples taken at Swimming River School, all but 11 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.

**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

Sample	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Is this a drinking source or food preparation location?
SKS 331C-3B (kitchen sink)	32.2	No – Cleaning station, not food preparation
SCS-333 (classroom sink)	21.0	No
SCS-312 (classroom sink)	45.4	No
SCS-311 (classroom sink)	33.3	No
SBS-300-9 (Boys Restroom Sink Next to Room 308)	47.6	No
SBS-300-10 (Boys Restroom Sink Next to Room 308)	53.2	No
SCS-305 (classroom sink)	17.5	No
SCS-305F (classroom fountain)	15.4	Yes
SBS-300-4 (Girls Restroom Sink Next to Room 305)	18.8	No
SBS-300-5 (Girls Restroom Sink Next to Room 305)	17.2	No
SBS-300-8 (Girls Restroom Sink Next to Room 305)	18.3	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 the sinks if possible and/or cover them so that the sink cannot be accessed/used. The fountain has been turned off.
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.

**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

### 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.

### 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](http://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.

**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>**

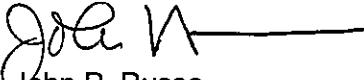
John P. Russo  
Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth W. Cole  
Director of Special Services

Tamar R. Sydney-Gens  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and health effects of lead, visit EPA's Website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://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

JPR:fg