

# NTNC – Consumer Notice of Tap Water Results (90<sup>th</sup> percentile LT 15)

Dear Water Consumers of Wales Primary School facility,

As you may know, *Wales Primary School* is also a public water system because we are responsible for providing you with water at this location and ensuring that the drinking water we provide to you meets state and federal standards. We collected 5 drinking water samples for lead at this location on June 25, 2020.

The Erie County DOH Laboratory results are as follows:

1. Hall Water Fountain (near Rm 6)	lead	0.001 mg/l	copper	0.0967 mg/l
2. Hall Water Fountain (near Rm 19)	lead	0.001 mg/l	copper	0.0224 mg/l
3. Kitchen sink (in Rm 6)	lead	0.001 mg/l	copper	0.0757 mg/l
4. Classroom sink (in Rm 9)	lead	0.001mg/l	copper	0.2 mg/l
5. Classroom sink (in Rm 41)	lead	0.001 mg/l	copper	0.0448 mg/l

**We are happy to report that the 90th percentile value for our water system is below the lead action level of 15 parts per billion.**

## What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the taps used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow*. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The 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.

## What Are The 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.*

## What Are The 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. 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

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 end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free."

### **What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?**

- ▶ ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If water hasn't been used for several hours, 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 approves the wording] or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
- ▶ ***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.
- ▶ ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.

### **For More Information**

Call Dave Carlin, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at 716-625-3000 ext. 1950 or for more information on lead in drinking water, contact your local health department at Erie County Department of Health, (716) 858-7690, 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](mailto: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](http://www.epa.gov/lead), or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.