

LEAD IN WATER TESTING PROGRAM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

LEAD IN WATER TESTING OVERVIEW

About the DCSD Lead in Water Testing Program

- In light of recent national events regarding water quality, the DCSD announced a district-wide water testing program as a precaution to ensure the drinking water within its schools are safe for all students and employees.
- While all schools will be tested, the initial schools were chosen based upon the age of students (with priority given to schools with pre-K programs) and age of the facility (with priority given to school built prior to 1986).

FACTS ABOUT POTENTIAL LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

- Lead comes from many different sources: paint, soil, consumer products, and water, to name a few.
- Drinking water in DeKalb County comes primarily from the Chattahoochee River.
- Lead enters drinking water when service pipes containing lead corrode. This is most commonly associated with chrome-plated brass faucets or fixtures connected with lead solder leaching into the water.
- The amount of lead in water depends on the temperature of the water, how long the water sits in the pipes, the acidity, and the types of minerals found in the water.
- Buildings built before 1986 may pose a greater risk because lead was permitted to be used as a building material before 1986.
- Per EPA's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), EPA's action level for lead in water is set at 15 parts per billion (ppb).

LEAD IN WATER IN TESTING PROGRAM

Water Testing Program Details

- DCSD has a total of 150 facilities (including schools, leased charter schools, administration buildings, educational buildings, and stadiums)
 - 106 of these original facilities have building(s) which were built prior to 1986
 - Water testing for all 150 facilities will commence on September 20, 2016 and will be completed by the summer of 2017.
- The District's testing schedule, testing protocols, copies of all water testing results, and other resources can be found at <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/lead-testing>
- Water Testing Vendor: Atlanta Environmental Management, Inc. (AEM) is a full-service, Atlanta-based environmental consulting and engineering firm founded in 1988. AEM has a highly qualified, multi-disciplined staff in the areas of engineering, environment science, geology/hydrogeology, chemistry, risk assessment, and regulatory affairs.

LEAD IN WATER TESTING PROGRAM

Water Testing Program Details

- Depending on size of school campus, teams of qualified samplers will be escorted by district personnel.
- Testing starts at 5 AM on Tuesday - Friday. Testing will not disrupt normal school based operations and classroom instruction time.
- Each campus will be shut down at 7:00 PM the night prior to testing.
- Remediation Plan (as needed)
 - Based on test results from each facility, an individual remediation plan may be produced to remediate any identified concerns as appropriate.
 - All remediation plans will be reviewed with the local School Principal and Regional Superintendent by the Chief Operations Officer prior to work being started.

REMEDIATION PLANS/ACTIONS

Remediation Trigger: Any service outlet that exceeds EPA's lead action level of 15 ppb will be immediately shut down or removed from service and additional sampling/investigation will be initiated.

Potential Interim Remedies:

- Shut down or remove problem outlets from student and employee use
- Provide bottled drinking water or mobile potable water tanks (if facility-wide or multiple problem outlets remediation is necessary)

Potential Permanent Remedies:

- Replace piping and/or fixtures contributing to lead in drinking water
- Reconfigure plumbing to bypass lead sources
- Install and maintain reverse osmosis units (i.e. filters or point of use devices) at affected outlets
- Find alternate grounding for electrical wires that are grounded to water pipes
- Install and operate automatic flushing systems

TESTING METHODOLOGY

Water Sampling Method

- Testing of water source outlets require:
 - All school water sources be unused for at least 8 hours prior to testing
 - If school has been inactive for more than 3 days, all potable water outlets are to be flushed completely the day prior to testing
 - One (1) 250mL sample will be collected from the County water distribution main (service meter)
 - One (1) 250mL “first draw sample” will be collected from each cold water outlet
 - After the “first draw sample” has been collected, a second 250mL sample will be collected after a 30 second flush samples will be collected at Pre-K and K classroom, all drinking fountains, kitchens, teacher lounges, ice machines, and athletic fields
- Samples are sent to a State-Accredited Water Testing Laboratory daily in accordance with U.S. EPA Method 200.8, with an estimated turnaround time of 10 business days

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

DeKalb County School District

- Water Testing Program results will be updated regularly on the DCSD Website <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/lead-testing>.
- Principals will receive a formal notification of when their school is to be tested.
- Daily communication is conducted with Facility Supervisors and Building Engineers in conjunction with environmental consultants regarding facility access.

Formal Notification

- Facilities with all test results below EPA's 15 ppb action level: parents and employees will receive a formal notification letter conveying this information.
- Facilities with any test results above EPA's 15 ppb action level: parents and employees will receive a letter immediately after DCSD receives the test results. The note will contain specific information regarding any necessary remediation plans as appropriate.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Parent Communications

- Principals are invited to attend a daily conference call on the status of testing
- A series of letters will be given to students announcing the testing, results of the testing, and remediation plans, as necessary
- District and school websites will contain updated information on a regular basis
- The District app will have a link to information. The District app is free and may be downloaded by iPhone and Android users
- Updates will also be posted on other social media outlets including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- Questions may be submitted to DCSD_communications@dekalbschoolsga.org

Reference Sites for further Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Lead (www.cdc.gov/lead).
- EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water (www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water)
- DCSD Lead in Water Testing website (<http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/lead-testing>)