

Consumer Notice of Tap Water Results for Virgil Elementary School

Dear Virgil Elementary Students and Staff,

As you may, or may not know, Virgil Elementary School is 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 a drinking water sample for lead at this location on July 7th, 2014. A lead level of .5 ppb at nurses sink, .5 ppb 1st floor drinking fountain, 1.2 ppb 2nd floor drinking fountain, 1.5 ppb at room 2 sink, and 2.2 ppb at the kitchen sink was reported for the sample we collected.

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?

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead contaminated dust, and lead contaminated residential soil. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Although our facility's lead levels were below the action level, if you are concerned about lead exposure in your home, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

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 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 Neal Helms at 607-758-4100, ext. 5500. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact the Cortland County Environmental Health Department at 607-753-5035 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. 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, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

Virgil Elementary School
Lead/Copper Results
July 7, 2014
Combined

ND are entered as 0.0005

Sample #	Order	Lead (mg/l)	Copper (mg/l)
Nurse's Office		0.0005	0.8300
1st Floor DF		0.0005	0.3400
2nd Floor DF		0.0012	0.2700
Room 2		0.0015	0.1100
Kitchen Sink		0.0022	0.0980
90th percentile		0.0019	
Action Level		0.015	

OK

Sample #	Order	Lead (mg/l)	Copper (mg/l)
Kitchen Sink		0.0022	0.0980
Room 2		0.0015	0.1100
2nd Floor DF		0.0012	0.2700
1st Floor DF		0.0005	0.3400
Nurse's Office		0.0005	0.8300
90th percentile			0.585
Action Level			1.3

OK