



Hamilton Township School District

1876 Dr. Dennis Foreman Drive, Mays Landing, Atlantic County, New Jersey 08330
District Website: hamiltonschools.org

Anne-Marie Fala
School Business Administrator
Telephone: (609) 476-6302

Frank Vogel
Superintendent
Telephone: (609) 476-6300
Fax: (609) 625-4847

Lisa C. Dagit
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Telephone: (609) 476-6310

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Dear Hamilton School Community:

New Jersey Department of Education guidelines require that all School Districts analyze their drinking water for lead before June 30, 2017. In an effort to ensure the safety of our staff and students, the Hamilton Township School District has started the mandatory testing of lead in our schools' drinking water. District wide water testing should be completed within the next few weeks. The Shaner School has already been tested and we have received the results. Some of the samples taken from the initial testing have revealed an elevated level of lead in the drinking water.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the Shaner School has already implemented remedial measures for the drinking water outlets with a result greater than the action level of **15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb])**. This includes turning off the drinking water fountain in each of the affected areas and providing bottled water to each affected classroom until the situation has been remediated.

Results of our Testing

Following the instructions provided in the technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets at the Shaner School. Of the 54 water samples taken, all but 6 tested below the lead action level (15 µg/l [ppb]) established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water.

The table below identifies the 6 drinking water outlets that tested above the lead action level, 15 µg/l (ppb) for lead and what remedial action has been taken as of this morning.

Location	First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)	Remedial Action Taken
Fountain Room 105	26.6 ppb	Shut off water fountain Bottled water provided
Fountain Room 106	16.3 ppb	Shut off water fountain Bottled water provided
Fountain Room 107	16.6 ppb	Shut off water fountain Bottled water provided
Fountain Room 109	19.6 ppb	Shut off water fountain Bottled water provided
Fountain in Child Study Team Office	28.6 ppb	Shut off water fountain Bottled water provided
Fountain in <u>Basement Hall</u> (No student access to this Fountain)	97.4 p/b	Shut off water fountain

All Children Can Learn!  **All Children Can Succeed!**

RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAR SCHOOL AND BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

Our next step will be to replace each affected water fountain in the identified areas of the Shaner School that had an elevated level of lead above 15ppb. After the fountain is replaced, we will retest the water and post our findings on line.

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 the 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 brass 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 plumbing fixtures 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 elevated levels of lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The results are also available on our website at www.hamiltonschools.org. For more information about the water quality in our schools, feel free to contact our Business Administrator, Ann-Marie Fala, at our Board of Education Office at 476-6302.

For additional information on reducing lead exposure and the health effects of lead, you can visit the EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead. You can also call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

We will keep you updated in regards to our remediation efforts at the Shaner School, as well as the results of our scheduled water testing at the Hess and Davies Schools. We anticipate that our district-wide testing should be completed by mid-December.

Ensuring the safety of our staff and students is paramount. Allow me to take this opportunity to assure you that we are adhering to all state guidelines and recommendations for testing. Timely regulatory compliance, transparency, and safety are our primary goals. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Vogel', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Frank Vogel
Superintendent of Schools

FV/tv