



Office of the Superintendent
Christopher D. Cerf, State District Superintendent
2 Cedar Street · Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973-733-7333 · Fax: 973-733-6834



Christopher D. Cerf
State District Superintendent

Dear NPS Family Member,

At Newark Public Schools, our students' health and safety is our highest priority. With that in mind, I am writing to notify you that we annually test a number of locations throughout our school district for the presence of lead in drinking water. Most recently, we tested water at all of our schools and discovered that in 30 school buildings one or more samples indicated elevated levels of lead in the water.

Your child's school was among those in which elevated levels were found in one or more samples. Out of an abundance of caution, we are taking the following steps to address this issue:

- We are providing bottled water for drinking and food preparation at all schools with one or more samples of elevated levels of lead, including your child's school;
- We have turned off all water fountains at all of these schools;
- In restrooms, kitchens, and other locations where water needs to remain on for hand washing or dishwashing, we are placing signs advising that the water is safe for that purpose but not for drinking or food preparation.

Because of the steps we have taken, parents can be assured that the water and food at your child's school is safe. In addition, we have confirmed that lead has not been found within the Newark Water Department's water system.

We are working to complete another round of sampling and testing as soon as possible. We will continue to communicate with you throughout this process, and will provide regular updates on water testing and specific measures the district is taking to remedy the situation.

Newark Public Schools is working closely with officials at the Newark Mayor's Office, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the NJ Department of Health, and the NJ Department of Education to coordinate additional resources and support, and are following the recommendations and guidance of experts in this area on the appropriate next steps.

There is nothing more important to us than the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. If you have any concerns about your child's well-being please consult with your primary care provider.

If you are interested in free blood level testing for your child please contact the following:

1. Shonda Bryant
Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Program Coordinator
94 William Street, Newark
973-733-5323
2. Patricia Cummings
WIC Coordinator
110 William Street, Newark
973-733-7604

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we work to further investigate and resolve this problem. We are working around the clock to ensure we quickly resolve this matter – so we can focus on continuing to provide a safe and successful learning environment for all of Newark’s children.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to call our contact center at 973-733-7333.

Sincerely,

Chris D. Cerf