

February 14, 2017

Dear **SOUTH HUNTERDON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT** Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, **SOUTH HUNTERDON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT** tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, **SOUTH HUNTERDON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT** will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted.

#### Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within **SOUTH HUNTERDON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 14 initial samples taken at West Amwell Elementary School, all but 2 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the water outlet that tested at or above the 15 ppb for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action **SOUTH HUNTERDON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT** has taken to reduce the levels of lead at this location.

<b>Sample Location</b>	<b>First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)</b>	<b>Remedial Action</b>
West Amwell School Water Fountain Room 115 ID #: WAS-WF-09	18	Immediately shut off. Further remedial actions to be taken and fixture to be re-sampled.
Flush Sample Results	4.2	
West Amwell School Nurse Sink ID #: WAS-S-12	15	Posted as "Do Not Drink-Safe for Handwashing Only"
Flush Sample Results	4.2	

#### Health Effects of Lead

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age. 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. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

## 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 lead pipes or plumbing systems 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 fairly high levels of lead.

## Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

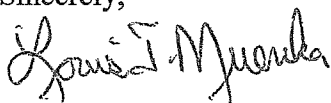
## For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at [www.MUJC.org](http://www.MUJC.org). For more information about water quality in our schools contact the Business Administrator at 609-397-0323.

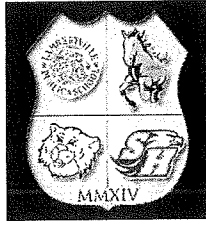
For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,



Superintendent of Schools



# South Hunterdon Regional School District

301 Mt. Airy – Harbourton Road, Lambertville, New Jersey 08530  
www.shrsd.org

Louis T. Muenker, D.Ed., Superintendent of Schools (609) 397-1888 (609) 397-6495 Fax  
Kerry Sevilis, Business Administrator/Board Secretary (609) 397-0323 (609) 397-2508 Fax  
Geoff Hewitt, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment (609) 397-9311 (609) 397-2470 Fax

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February 15, 2017

Dear West Amwell Community:

First, my apologies for not providing a more detailed explanation of the results of water tests at West Amwell School.

This letter is to provide further details about our recent lead testing. As now required by law, each school in the district was tested for the presence of lead at the main inlet and any location where water can be consumed for drinking or used for cooking. In the past, West Amwell School was tested regarding water quality without any instances of high lead levels as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency at that time. Our last testing for West Amwell School occurred in 2015. There was no indication of unsafe water at that time as our drinking water met all federal and state safety requirements. This year, however, a new state law requires all New Jersey schools to undertake a more extensive program of testing for the presence of lead and other pollutants at the main inlet, as well as at any location where water could be consumed for drinking or used for cooking.

### Is Our School's Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our school's water is safe. SHRS D tested our drinking water for lead. Of the 15 water samples we tested, 2 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb (parts per billion) mark set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The first sample of high lead levels was found in a water fountain in Room 115. This fountain, as I shared yesterday, is now turned off. We will work at identifying the sources of lead so we can fix the problem. Students have access to the hallway drinking fountain.

The second sample of high lead levels was found in the nurse's suite sink. This sink will only be used for handwashing until we can fix the problem. Potable water is being provided to our nurse during this interim period of time.

### Why Is There Lead In The Water?

Lead enters drinking water when service pipes that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. The most common sources of lead in water are brass or chrome-plated brass faucets, or pipes and fixtures with lead solder.

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Lambertville Public School – Wanda Quinones, Principal	(609) 397-0183	(609) 397-4607 Fax
South Hunterdon Regional High School – Jennifer Beresh MacKnight, Principal	(609) 397-2060	(609) 397-2366 Fax
Stockton Borough Elementary School – Geoff Hewitt, Principal	(609) 397-9023	(609) 397-2012 Fax
West Amwell Township Elementary School – David Miller, Principal	(609) 397-0819	(609) 397-4350 Fax

Public water systems or buildings constructed before 1986, when the use of lead in plumbing materials was banned, are more likely to incorporate such fixtures or solder.

All sources of water that do not meet the safe levels of use have been turned off. We will work at correcting these locations and re-test before placing lines back in service.

**How Can I Learn More?**

The South Hunterdon Regional School District is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. We will post these findings on our district website. Please feel free to contact me at 609-397-1888 regarding concerns you may have related to the issue. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency. If you are concerned about any potential lead exposure through the water at school, home, or elsewhere, please contact your healthcare provider about testing children to determine the levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis T. Muenker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Louis T. Muenker, D.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools

LTM/bse