



# THE JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL

July 30, 2018

Dear John Carroll Community,

We are required to share the following information with you regarding results from a June 2018 test of water samples at various locations around the school. Please note that none of the locations identified as having elevated levels are water fountains or sinks from which people would drink.

## **Important Notice: Elevated Water Sample Result(s)**

### **ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)**

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On June 11, 2018, 176 lead water samples were collected from The John Carroll School. Of these lead water samples, 19 had levels of lead exceeding the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the sample(s) collected at The John Carroll School were as follows:

- 6700 parts per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, room 304
- 56 parts per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, workroom 304
- 28 parts per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 216 east wall north
- 53 parts per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 216 teacher sink
- 60 parts per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 216 west wall north
- 32 parts per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 213 south wall left
- 21 Parts per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 213 South Wall right
- 98 parts per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 213 East wall North
- 84 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 213 NE Bench South
- 34 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 213 NW bench North
- 49 part per Billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 213 NW Bench South
- 44 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 213 NW Bench North
- 230 part per Billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, room 222 Teachers Counter
- 48 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, 208 South Side South Teacher
- 7400 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 208 east wall
- 320 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Room 208 West wall
- 58 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, controller office
- 34 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, main office Men's BR
- 260 part per billion (ppb) sink, cold tap, Men's BR at room 107 right

### **ACTION LEVEL (AL)**

The AL is 20 ppb for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation.



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## **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. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. 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.

## **SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD**

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

## **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN**

All sinks above ppb threshold now have signage, "Hand Washing Only."

## **NEXT STEPS**

All sinks above ppb threshold will have permanent signage, "Hand Washing Only."

## **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 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.

Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water. Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information, please contact The John Carroll School Facilities Manager Mr. Joe McGrain at 410-838-8333. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead). If you are concerned about exposure, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.