

May 4, 2018

Dear Families,

In 2017, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that directed school boards to create and implement a plan to test drinking water in schools with specific emphasis upon schools built in or before 1986. As a result, Hanover County Public Schools secured an environmental contractor in the fall of 2017 who specializes in this work. Over the past several months, our contractor conducted testing at each of our sixteen schools built in or before 1986. This included your school.

The primary intent of the legislation is to test drinking water sources for lead. When evaluating water samples, lead levels below 20 parts per billion (20 ppb) are considered acceptable according to established EPA school testing guidelines. For lead levels that are above 20 ppb, remediation is recommended to ensure levels are within acceptable limits.

The contractor recently submitted the final results to Hanover County Public Schools. They sampled 387 high priority water sources (primarily water fountains) at 16 schools. The vast majority of the sources tested (374) were found to be within the acceptable range (below 20 ppb). However, thirteen of the results at six schools were above the EPA actionable level, all of which were confined to water fountains. Please note that according to our contractor, many of the higher readings were likely caused by water sitting in the fountain for an extended period of time prior to taking the sample. In response to this information, we immediately took the water fountains out of service, and we will permanently remove them from the building. We will install a new fountain if a replacement is deemed necessary.

We understand that you may have questions or want more information about lead in drinking water. As a result, we recommend that you visit the following Virginia Department of Health website to learn more: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/drinking-water-and-lead/frequently-asked-questions/>

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to provide our students and staff with a safe and healthy learning environment. If you have additional questions regarding lead in drinking water, please contact the Hanover Health Department at (804) 365-4313. For facilities-related questions, you may contact Mr. Ed Buzzelli, Director of Facilities, at (804) 365-4526.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Gill
Superintendent of Schools