

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Hershey Elementary School found elevated levels of lead in drinking water from some faucets. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

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

### **Sources of Lead**

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 infants who drink baby formula and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like 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 indoor plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join

copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2 percent lead and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing material to 8.0 percent.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or late in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

### **Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water**

Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in the plumbing, the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 30 to 60 seconds.

Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one or two gallons of water. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible, use the first flush with water to wash dishes or water the plants.

Try not to cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw it from the cold tap and then heat it. Boiling water does not remove lead content and can concentrate it. In addition, do not mix baby formula with water from the hot water tap.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentration in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned, you may wish to purchase bottled water for drinking and cooking.

For more information, call us at 765-269-8421, or visit our web site at [www.tsc.k12.in.us](http://www.tsc.k12.in.us). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home or building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider who can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. State and local government agencies that can be contacted include:

- Steve Tobias, TSC Director of Buildings & Grounds, 765-269-8421 can provide you with information about this facility's water supply.
- Indiana State Department of Health at 317-233-1250 can provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

Explanation for elevated levels of lead in this system's drinking water and what we are doing to reduce the lead levels in this building:

*Tippecanoe School Corporation, Dept. of Buildings & Grounds, has changed out faucets and fountains in the affected areas. We will continue to monitor lead levels as prescribed by the State of Indiana, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).*



## CONSUMER NOTICE OF LEAD RESULT IN DRINKING WATER

State Form 55275 (R / 9-16)

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Office of Water Quality – Drinking Water Branch – Compliance Section

### IDEM – Drinking Water Branch

100 N. Senate Avenue

MC 66-34

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

Telephone: 317-234-7435

Fax: 317-234-7436

Email: [dwbmgr@idem.in.gov](mailto:dwbmgr@idem.in.gov)

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Complete Consumer Notice of Lead Result and Certification form.
  2. Distribute a Consumer Notice of Lead Results to occupants of each location sampled within thirty (30) days of knowing the sample result.
  3. Submit a sample copy of the notice sent to consumers and a copy of the certification form to IDEM.

Water Supply Name: Tippecanoe School Corp. - Hershey Elementary School

County: Tippecanoe Public Water Supply ID: IN2790013

Sample Location: Room 18 Date Sampled (month, day, year): 09/20/2018

Thank you for participating in the lead and copper monitoring of drinking water. The levels of lead and copper found at your location are in the table below.

Key to Table	Contaminant	AL	MCLG	Your Result
<p><u>Action Level (AL):</u> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.</p> <p><u>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):</u> The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.</p> <p><u>ppb:</u> parts per billion or micrograms per liter.</p> <p><u>ppm:</u> parts per million or milligrams per liter.</p>	Lead (ppb)	15	0	<u>23.3</u>
	Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	<u>0.01</u>

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

To reduce exposure to lead in drinking water:

- *Run your water to flush out lead.* Run the water until it becomes cold.
- *Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.* Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily in hot water.
- *Do not boil water to remove lead.* Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.
- *Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.* If your lead result is above 15 ppb, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010, or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters.
- *Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.* New faucets, fittings, and valves, may contain up to 8 percent lead including those advertised as "lead-free" and may contribute lead to drinking water. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

Although the primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated soil, the U.S. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water.

For more information, contact us at 765-269-8421 or [ajwright@tsc.k12.in.us](mailto:ajwright@tsc.k12.in.us).

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit the U.S. 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.



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Water Supply Name: Tippecanoe School Corp. - Hershey Elementary School

County: Tippecanoe Public Water Supply ID: IN2790013

Sample Location: Room 9 Date Sampled (month, day, year): 09/20/2018

Thank you for participating in the lead and copper monitoring of drinking water. The levels of lead and copper found at your location are in the table below.

Key to Table	Contaminant	AL	MCLG	Your Result
<p><u>Action Level (AL):</u> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.</p> <p><u>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):</u> The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.</p> <p><u>ppb:</u> parts per billion or micrograms per liter.</p> <p><u>ppm:</u> parts per million or milligrams per liter.</p>	Lead (ppb)	15	0	<u>34.5</u>
	Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	<u>0.02</u>

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- *Do not boil water to remove lead.* Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.
- *Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.* If your lead result is above 15 ppb, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010, or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters.
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Although the primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated soil, the U.S. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water.

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Water Supply Name: Tippecanoe School Corp. - Hershey Elementary School

County: Tippecanoe Public Water Supply ID: IN2790013

Sample Location: Room 28 Date Sampled (month, day, year): 09/20/2018

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	Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	<u>0.11</u>

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