



RON FRANKS  
Maintenance Supervisor

January 27, 2023

To: The Western Wayne Community

RE: Water Fountain Lead Test Exceedance Notice

Hello,

The Western Wayne School District is required to post the accompanying notice of a recent lead test exceedance as it contains important information about the effects of lead in drinking water.

The Western Wayne School District tests all of our drinking water triennially.

During the pandemic, all water fountains were shut down in accordance with CDC guidelines.

At the beginning of this school year, the water fountains were returned to service.

Two water fountains in the High School were not working due to mechanical problems and were placed OUT OF ORDER. Those two water fountains have not been used, or usable, since 2020.

The TWO OUT OF ORDER FOUNTAINS were tested in December 2022 and the results of ONLY those two fountains showed elevated levels of lead in the water.

The two water fountains have been removed and will be replaced with new units.

**ALL OTHER WATER SERVICE IN THE DISTRICT HAS TESTED WITHIN SAFE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS.**

If you have further questions, please contact Ron Franks at 1-800-321-9973.

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Western Wayne

High School found elevated levels of lead in drinking water tap samples. 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.***

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

### 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 brain development.

### Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil. Drinking water is also a possible source of lead exposure. Most sources of drinking water have no lead or very low levels of lead. Most lead gets into drinking water after the water leaves the local well or treatment plants and comes into contact with plumbing materials containing lead. These include lead pipes, lead solder (commonly used until 1986), as well as faucets, valves, and other components made of brass.

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

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooling, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.
2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter.
5. **Test your water for lead.** If you think you may have elevated lead levels in your home drinking water, have it tested. Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) for more information.

#### What Happened? What is being done?

On September 16, 2022, DEP reported to Western Wayne School District, during required routine testing, a water fountain in the 300 section and another in the 100 section of the high school, that has been out of service since the pandemic began, had elevated levels of lead that exceeded the acceptable limits for safe drinking water. On January 17, 2023, DEP notified Western Wayne School District that as a result of the exceedance, additional measures are required including: Public Education, Water Quality Parameter Monitoring, and the possibility for installation of corrosion control treatment.

What is being done:

Even though both of these water fountains were already out of service, Western Wayne has removed both of these water fountains and purchased two new units. We are currently awaiting installation by one of our plumbing sub-contractors. We are also following the guidelines outlined by DEP, public notification and additional Water Quality Parameter Monitoring.

#### For More Information

Call us at 1-800-321-9973 or (if applicable) visit our website at www.westernwayne.org. For more 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), or contact your health care provider.

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