

Nashoba Valley

TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 Littleton Road • Westford, Massachusetts 01886
Telephone: 978.692.4711 • Fax: 978.392.0570 • www.nashobatech.net

Denise P. Pigeon
Superintendent
December 4, 2017

To the Students, Families, and Staff of Nashoba Valley Technical High School:

During recent sampling for lead and copper, some water taps at our school had lead levels that exceed the Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities. See sample results below. The Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water is 0.015 milligrams per liter (also known as parts per million).

We would like to inform you about our plans to reduce potential exposure to lead in drinking water at our school. Lead is not believed to be in our water source but plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain lead, resulting in an increase in the lead content in tap water. Exposure to lead is a concern because lead is a toxic metal that has a range of adverse health effects.

Sampling Results			
Date Sample Collected	Location	Lead result in mg/L	Lead result after 30 second flush
11/2/2017	KETTLE CULINARY ARTS F106	0.0199	.0011 – Below Action Level
11/2/2017	KITCHEN WATER TABLE SQUARE (Tilting Skillet)	0.157	None Detected

The administration takes these results very seriously and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. The following information describes steps we are taking to address the issue of lead in the water.

To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals (including woman who are pregnant or nursing), our school is working closely and cooperatively with MassDEP and taking actions as follows:

What we are doing:

1. The kettle in culinary arts and the tilting skillet are both used very infrequently. We are implementing a flushing and water usage plan to safeguard against lead exposure from these items that are found to be above the MassDEP Action Level for lead. A protocol will be put in place which will include two minute flushing prior to use and maintaining a Manual Flushing Log Lead and Copper Remediation.



2. We will undertake efforts to determine the cause of this lead Action Level exceedance and evaluate the adequacy of our existing corrosion control system. We will develop and put into place a corrective action plan as quickly as possible following additional testing and consultation.

3. Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead exposure from drinking water at our school.

A Reminder: The water system at the school is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. If you have questions about lead in your home's water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.

If you have any questions on this information please contact Joanna Carpentier at (978) 692-4711 extension 11103

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise Pigeon

Superintendent

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Denise P. Pigeon
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December 4, 2017

To the Students, Families, and Staff of Nashoba Valley Technical High School:

During recent sampling for lead and copper, the ice machine in the trainer's room at our school had copper levels that exceed the Massachusetts and federal Action Level for copper in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities. See sample results below. The Action Level for copper in drinking water is 1.3 milligrams per liter (also known as parts per million).

We would like to inform you about our plans to reduce potential exposure to copper in drinking water at our school. Copper is not believed to be in our water source but plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain copper, resulting in an increase in the copper content in tap water.

Sampling Results		
Date Sample Collected	Location	Copper results in mg/L
11/2/2017	ICE MACHINE SMALL GYM TRAINER'S ROOM	2.5

Copper is a necessary micronutrient and is needed in small "trace" amounts for good health but too much copper in the diet or in drinking water may cause adverse health effects. Some people who consume drinking water with copper in excess of the EPA action level may experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. However, most people are unlikely to experience health problems from exposure to modestly elevated copper levels in drinking water because the human body has a natural mechanism for maintaining the proper level of copper in it. People with Wilson's disease, children less than one year old, and individuals with liver disease cannot eliminate excess copper from their bodies as well and are more likely to experience negative health effects on the liver and kidney from short-term exposure to copper levels that exceed the EPA's action level. See the MassDEP Fact Sheet on copper and your health at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/a-thru-h/copperfs.pdf>

The administration takes these results very seriously and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. The following information describes steps we are taking to address the issue of copper in the water.

To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals (including woman who are pregnant or nursing), our school is working closely and cooperatively with MassDEP and others and taking actions as follows:



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What we are doing:

1. The ice machine will be posted “non-potable use only”.
2. We will undertake efforts to determine the cause of this copper Action Level exceedance and evaluate the adequacy of our existing corrosion control system. We will develop and put into place a corrective action plan as quickly as possible following additional testing and consultation.
3. Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against copper exposure from drinking water at our school.

A Reminder: The water system at the school is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. Plumbing systems also contain copper. If you have questions about lead or copper in your home’s water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.

If you have any questions on this information please contact Joanna Carpentier at (978) 692-4711 extension 11103.

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise Pigeon

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