

6/3/2022

**Fernwood Avenue Middle School**  
4034 Fernwood Avenue, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Dear **Fernwood Avenue Middle School** Parents, Guardians and Staff:

**Egg Harbor Township Schools** is committed to protecting **Fernwood Avenue Middle School** students' and staff's health. As required by the Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead. **Egg Harbor Township Schools** has scheduled the lead drinking water sampling for **Fernwood Avenue Middle School** on or about 6/3/2022.

#### Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the 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.

In other words, it is the fetus that is at risk because developing fetuses receive lead from the mother's bones. Children and fetuses absorb more lead into their bodies than adults and are more susceptible to its effects on brain development; however, most children with elevated blood lead levels do not exhibit any symptoms, but effects may appear later in life.

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 household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of or lined with lead. Since 1987, all plumbing materials must be "lead free." The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

### What Actions Are We Taking?

Prior to sampling, **Egg Harbor Township Schools** developed a Lead Sampling Plan for and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the school to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or a lead service line are present.

**Fernwood Avenue Middle School** Lead Sampling Plan may be found on our website at [https://www.eht.k12.nj.us/district\\_services/departments/facilities\\_and\\_maintenance](https://www.eht.k12.nj.us/district_services/departments/facilities_and_maintenance).

All drinking water outlets in **Fernwood Avenue Middle School** will be sampled on or about 6/3/2022. We anticipate receiving the results from our laboratory within two weeks of sampling. Upon receiving the sample results, **Fernwood Avenue Middle School** will inform you if any of the drinking water outlets had a result greater than the Environmental Protection Agency's lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) and will post all of the results on our website at [https://www.eht.k12.nj.us/district\\_services/departments/facilities\\_and\\_maintenance](https://www.eht.k12.nj.us/district_services/departments/facilities_and_maintenance). The results will be used to assist in the prioritization of future water testing for lead in accordance with **Fernwood Avenue Middle School** Lead Sampling Plan.

**Fernwood Avenue Middle School** will also implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 ppb. This will include turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted.

### How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Maintenance and Grounds Supervisor, Kevin Dick, at Egg Harbor Township Schools 609-927-4141 ext.1800. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection's website at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead.html>.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kimberly A. Gruccio  
Superintendent of Schools