

# EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

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## **“ Cougars ROAR ”** **Respect Others, Accept Responsibility**

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Judy Holladay  
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October 18, 2010

Dear Parents,

Last year at this time we were advised by the Department of Environmental Protection that water samples taken in specific areas of the building (faculty room and kitchen dishwasher sink) contained a lead level of 19 parts per billion. The action level set by the EPA is 15 parts per billion.

Steps were taken at that time and the next test taken in January demonstrated that the problem was remediated.

Based on the results of our annual test that was just taken, we have been advised by the Department of Environmental Protection that, once again, lead levels were found to be 23.1 parts per billion (ppb) in the science room and again in the faculty room.

We will immediately implement the following action plan as required by the state:

1. Post public notices, provide bottled water as an alternate source, and proceed with Water Quality Parameter testing as prescribed by the NJDEP regulations.
2. Investigate the cause of corrosion by engaging an electrician to test for electrical current in the plumbing system and insure that all electrical appliances as well as the main electrical boxes are properly grounded. Using copper pipes as an electrical ground is a source of corrosion.
3. If we find that the corrosion problem was the result of electrical grounding, we will correct the problem and ask the BSDAW for permission to retest.
4. If the retests do not exceed actionable levels, we will have remedied the problem and no further action will be necessary.
5. If lead levels remain high following our remedial actions or we do not find any improperly grounded electrical, we will move forward with our approved corrosion control treatment recommendation and install an ortho-phosphate feed system which will passivate the internal surfaces of the plumbing system and reduce the amount of contact between the water and the metal surfaces.
6. The water is scheduled to be retested for lead and copper during the first half of 2011.

We believe it is in everyone's best interest to be proactive in this matter for the safety and well being of our students and staff. Therefore, bottled water will be used until a required retest is taken. We will provide updates to you at that time.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Stoloski  
Superintendent

\* Additional information regarding lead in drinking water is attached.

/jns

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

This notice is being sent to you by East Amwell Twp. Board of Education, Water System ID#NJ1008301.  
Date: October 19, 2010.

East Amwell Twp. Board of Education found elevated levels of lead were found in the drinking water. 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.

A lead level of 23.1 parts per billion (ppb) was reported at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for 20 samples collected on September 23, 2010. This lead value is greater than the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level of 15 ppb. Under Federal regulations we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water. The individual tap results for Lead from the 20 samples that were tested during September, 2010 are provided on the last page of this Notice.

### **What Does This Mean**

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means that water from taps used for human consumption do not exceed the action level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90<sup>th</sup> percentile result). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then certain steps must be taken to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is 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.

### **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. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead. Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Buildings built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. New buildings are also at risk because even legally "lead-free" plumbing (i.e., new brass faucets fittings and valves) may contain up to 8 percent lead, which can leach significant amounts of lead into the water, especially hot water. However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up to 2 percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

### **Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water**

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water run from the faucet for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This procedure flushes lead-containing water from the pipes and should be followed any time the water in a faucet hasn't been used for several hours. The longer the water remains in the plumbing the more lead it may contain.
2. **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 into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
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 using bottled water or a water filter designed to remove lead. 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. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to ensure water quality.
5. **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

### **What is Being Done?**

Our source water and distribution plumbing are being evaluated to determine treatment requirements. A treatment recommendation will be developed and implemented to control lead levels in the tap water. The monitoring frequency for lead and copper at East Amwell Twp. Board of Education has been increased to every 6-months. Until this is resolved we have provided bottled water as an alternate source of drinking water.

### **For More Information**

You can consult a variety of sources for additional information on reducing Lead exposure and the health effects of Lead.

- 1) Your health care provider (family doctor or pediatrician) can provide you with information about the health effects of Lead and can perform a blood test for Lead.
- 2) The NJ Department of Health and Senior Services at 609-633-2043 can provide you with information about the health effects of Lead.
- 3) The Hunterdon County Department at (908)788-1351 can provide you with information about the health effects of Lead.
- 4) EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/Lead](http://www.epa.gov/Lead) can provide you with information on the health effects of Lead and reducing Lead exposure.

- 5) The National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or the Safe Drinking Water hotline at 800-426-4791 can provide you with information on reducing Lead exposure and the health effects of Lead.

This notice is being sent to you by East Amwell Twp. Board of Education, Water System ID#NJ1008301. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements to reduce Lead in our drinking water please contact us at ((908)782-6464.

Date: Notification was distributed: October 19, 2010.

The levels of Lead found in the 20 taps that were tested include the following:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Lead Result ug/L</b>
<b>Main Office</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Girls Bathroom 38 Wing</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Kitchen C</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Kitchen D</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Kitchen B</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Nurses Office</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Tech Room</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Nurses Bathroom</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Science Room B</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Room 28 Bathroom</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Boys Bathroom 38 Wing</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Kitchen A</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Music Room</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Room 25 Bathroom</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Science Room A</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>20.4</b>
<b>Science Room E</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>22.9</b>
<b>Teachers Room</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>23.1</b>
<b>Science Room D</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>26.6</b>
<b>Science Room C</b>	<b>9/23/10</b>	<b>28.9</b>