



Follow-Up Questions & Answers Document

Topic: *Water Testing*

Following last week's release of the water testing results for the Washington Township Schools, several questions and discussion points have risen within our school community. The following serves to address the feedback and questions the District has received. Please take a few moments to review this information ... Thank you.

1. **Q:** Why are New Jersey's schools testing for the presence of lead in their drinking water?

A: *In response to National attention to water testing for the purpose of determining lead levels in drinking Water, the New Jersey Legislature crafted a law requiring the test of all school water outlets by July 13, 2017.*

2. **Q:** What agency established the protocols for the testing of drinking water?

A: *The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection established the guidelines for lead testing in school drinking water.*

3. **Q:** What was the process used for conducting the tests?

A: *NJ Department of Environmental Protection requires that drinking water systems be tested two times. The first test is of "standing" water samples (water that sits inside the pipes prior to the system being flushed). The Washington Township Schools conducted the first test on November 10 and 11, 2016 (days when schools were closed to ensure that "standing" water samples were collected and tested). The second test has been scheduled for December 27th and requires that samples be taken after the water system has been flushed (in other words, samples will not be of the "standing" water variety). As a practice, the Washington Township Schools flushes its systems in all schools prior to the start of each school day.*

4. **Q:** Were all of the District's schools tested?

A: *No. The Benedict A. Cucinella School was not included in the first round of testing based on the*

construction date of the school and the understanding that schools built during that period would not warrant testing. However, NJ decided to stipulate that all school buildings be tested. Since the District had made its testing arrangements a few months ago, the District did not want to reschedule with its testing company RAdata, Inc. as that would have resulted in a postponement of all testing due to the high volume of business approved testing companies are experiencing. The Benedict A. Cucinella School is scheduled to be tested on December 27th.

5. **Q:** What are the results of Washington Township Schools' water tests?

A: *The Washington Township Schools' lead testing results revealed that 141 of the 159 drinking water and food preparation water sources were below the lead action level established by the State Environmental Protection Agency. The Agency has established levels at or below 15 µg/L [ppb] (15 micrograms per liter; parts per billion) as not requiring remedial action. The Federal action level is set at 20 µg/L [ppb]. It is expected that the Washington Township Schools' second test results will be favorably different since the test will be conducted following a flush of the water system. It is important to reiterate here that, as a practice, the Washington Township Schools flushes its systems in all schools prior to the start of each school day.*

6. **Q:** How can I access the water testing results?

A: *An overview of the results were shared with parents and faculty using the District's new Blackboard Communication System. The District also posts the results and reports furnished by RAdata, Inc. to its home page @ www.wtschools.org. Click [HERE](#) for a quick link to the results of the first round of testing.*

7. **Q:** What remedial action has the District taken to address those drinking water sources that tested above the State's acceptable limit of 15 µg/L [ppb] ?

A: *For direct drinking water sources that tested above the State's required action level of 15 µg/L [ppb], the District has temporarily shut off the water supply to the water outlets. For non-drinking water sources that tested above the State's required action level of 15 µg/L [ppb], signs have been posted that read " DO NOT DRINK - FOR HANDWASHING ONLY." Pictures accompany the signs as furnished by the State of New Jersey.*

8. **Q:** When will the District share the results of the mandatory follow-up testing with parents and faculty?

A: *The District anticipates receiving the results of the follow-up testing in late January or early February. The results will be shared within a few days of the District's receipt.*

9. **Q:** The reports indicate that some of the water sources are located in school kitchens. How does this affect food preparation in our cafeterias?

A: *All of the Washington Township Schools' kitchens have additional water sources that are deemed safe.*

10. **Q:** Where can I find additional information regarding drinking water both public and private water supplies?

A: *The Federal Government's Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) web site provided information relative to drinking water supplies, including private well. The site is:*

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-your-drinking-water>

Please note that the District's contact professionals for questions about the District's water testing project are:

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Both Ms. George and Mr. Whitmore are happy to answer any questions you may have. As always, I can be reached at 908.876.4172 x1024 as well.

Jeff Mohre

Superintendent of Schools

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