



GOSHEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

"Inspiring Innovation...Empowering Potential...Enriching Our World"

Goshen Community Schools
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Superintendent
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Mrs. Tamra K. Ummel Ed. S.

June 23, 2016

Dear Goshen School Community:

In light of national concerns regarding lead in the public water supply and its impact on children, Mayor Stutsman and the Goshen Water Utility decided to test, on behalf of Goshen Community Schools (GCS), the drinking water at each water faucet in the school district per the EPA's 3T guidelines. It is the goal of Goshen Water Utilities to provide clean and safe drinking water to all its customers, and the city was happy to assist the school in assuring safe drinking water for our students.

Is the Drinking Water Safe in Our Schools?

Yes, all water outlets and faucets intended for drinking across our district are safe. The Goshen Water Utilities Department, in partnership with GCS, tested all 592 water outlets across the district. Of those, 46 outlets were found to have lead levels higher than the 15 ppb mark. Forty-five of those outlets were faucets that provide water not intended for drinking, the majority of which were found in science labs. The remaining outlet was a classroom bubbler at Merit Alternative School. After conducting routine maintenance consisting of flushing lines and cleaning aerators, the 46 outlets were retested and only two were still problematic. To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and daycare facilities test their drinking water for lead and if any lead levels are found that are at or above 15 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead.

The two non-drinking outlets are in a Goshen High School (GHS) science lab and in a GHS teacher work space not accessible to students. These two faucets have been shut off until replacements are installed to prevent anyone from having accidental access. Over the course of the next few weeks all science lab outlets in the district will be replaced, as will the one in the teacher work space. We will continue to retest and address these two areas until all outlets meet EPA standards.

We appreciate the partnership and leadership taken by the Goshen Water Utilities Department and staff through this process. Along with the city of Goshen, Goshen Community Schools is committed to excellence in all we do, including safe schools and environments where students can be inspired, empowered and can learn in order to enrich our world.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants and children under six years of age. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

How Can I Learn More?

You may see a copy of all of our water testing results at the school district's administration office, which is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, and on our website under the "Public Info" tab at www.goshenschools.org. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Dr. Alan Metcalfe at 574-533-8631. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or the state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane Woodworth
Superintendent of Schools