Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
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Dear Barley Sheaf School Parents, Faculty, Staff and Community Members;

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is committed to protecting students, teachers and staff health. To protect our community and comply with the Department of Education's regulations, our District tested our schools' water sources for lead.

In accordance with Department of Education regulations, Barley Sheaf School will implement immediate remedial measures for any water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/1 (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes 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. These locations are for non-drinking purposes only. In the chart below, areas are identified with results above permissible amounts. Classroom sinks that are identified are typically used for rinsing instructional materials such as science equipment and/or art supplies and not a water fountain or refillable bottle station. It's important to know that the CDC shares that human skin does not absorb lead from water, even when the water contains lead that is over the EPA's action level.[1]

Test Results -- Following instructions given in the technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. There were 57 samples taken; 2 tested above the lead action level established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/1 [ppb]).

The table below identifies the water location source that tested above the 15 µg/1 for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action has been taken.

Location Number	Sample Location	First Draw Result in 15 µg/1 [ppb]	Remedial Action
1.	Classroom 52 Sink 1	23.9	Sign posted; "Do not drink. Safe for handwashing only."
2.	Classroom 52 Sink 2	22.5	Sign posted; "Do not drink. Safe for handwashing only."

The District has been assured that all other areas other than those listed in the chart above are within the permissible levels and there is no concern for the safety of our drinking water. However, as always, if an individual is more comfortable with bringing water bottles from home or using hand sanitizer, they certainly may do so.

Next steps the District is taking to address elevated levels:

1. Service pipes by flushing and cleaning areas of concern;
2. Make any necessary repairs or replacements;
3. Perform additional testing after remediation of water sources to ensure permissible levels;
4. Inform the community of additional testing results.

[1] https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water

Health Effects of Lead

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age. 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. 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. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, 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 in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

A copy of the test results are available in our school main offices. The public, students, teachers, school personnel and parents, can view the results between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. They are also available on our website at www.frsd.kl2.nj.us.

For more information about water quality in our schools, please feel free to contact our Maintenance Department at 908-284-7594, about water quality in our schools. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD.

Sincerely,

Kari McGann

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent