

November 2, 2021

Dear Pennoyer Families:

Senate Bill 550 requires elementary school buildings constructed prior to January 1, 2000 serving 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below to test the following water sources for lead:

- Drinking fountain and drinking sources in buildings
- Classroom sinks in classrooms under 1st grade (kindergarten and pre-kindergarten)

Water sources at Pennoyer School were tested on October 12, 2021. The result of this test showed 8 water sources tested positive for lead. You can find the original report and lead mitigation and flushing protocols at:

<https://www.pennoyerschool.org/district/facilities>

**Above acceptable lead levels limits**

Drinking Fountains	Sinks
1st Floor Hallway outside Room 104	1st Floor Room 105
1st Floor Hallway outside Room 99	2nd Floor Room 228
2nd Floor Hallway outside Room 220	Lower Level Girls East Restroom
Lower Level outside Room 130	
Lower Level Hallway outside of LRC	

Based upon the results of this testing the District is taking the following steps;

1. The water to fixtures mentioned above has been shut off.
2. Pennoyer School's Lead Mitigation Committee of Pennoyer which consists of faculty, parents, community members and the Village of Norridge will meet to review the current mitigation plan and make any necessary revisions.

Water testing followed protocol recommended by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and SD550 . All water sources have two samples collected. The first collection at each source is a "first draw" sample. Water collection occurs in first draw samples after sources were unused for at least eight (8) hours. The second sample at that source is collected after 30 seconds of flushing. The two (2) samples are intended to help identify if any concentrations are originating from the fixture or the potable water piping leading to the fixture.

Lead most frequently gets into drinking water by leaching from plumbing materials and fixtures as water moves through a school's distribution system. Even though the drinking water you receive from the water supplier may meet federal and state standards for lead, your facility may have elevated lead levels due to plumbing materials and water use patterns. Leaching can occur for several reasons but the most significant is corrosion which can occur if water is acidic.

Lead in new plumbing and plumbing repairs was banned in 1986. This ban did not entirely eliminate lead as 0.2% lead is still allowed in solder and 8% lead is allowed in piping systems. Pre-1986 plumbing systems have a higher potential to leach lead into drinking water.

Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful to human health. Young children, those 6 years and younger, are at particular risk for lead exposure because they have frequent hand-to-mouth activity and absorb lead more easily than do adults. Children's nervous systems are still undergoing development and thus are more susceptible to the effects of toxic agents. Lead is also harmful to the developing fetuses of pregnant women.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has developed the following guidance for reducing lead in the drinking water in schools;

["3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools: Revised Technical Guidance: Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\): October 2006 Version"](#)

While there is no known safe level of lead in drinking water the guidance lists a recommended action level of 20.0 parts per billion (ppb) of lead. Effectively when lead concentrations are at 20.0 ppb or greater some action should be taken to reduce the concentration in the affected outlets.

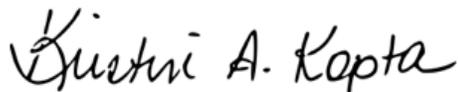
A complete copy of the water testing report is available on the Pennoyer School website, <https://www.pennoyerschool.org/district/facilities>. If you should have any questions regarding the water testing that was performed you can contact me at 708-456-9094 or [kkopta@pennoyerschool.org](mailto:kkopta@pennoyerschool.org)

For additional information about lead in drinking water you can visit the USEPA's website;

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

I thank you all for your continued support of Pennoyer School. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Kristin A. Kopta, Ed.D  
Superintendent  
Pennoyer School District 79