



**Department of
Education**

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Elizabeth A. Rose February 7, 2017

Deputy Chancellor

Division of Operations Dear Families and Staff:

**52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007**

212 374 7868 Tel

212 374 5588 Fax

This is a follow up to my December 19 letter outlining the additional measures the New York City Department of Education (DOE) is taking to ensure that the water in New York City schools is safe for students and staff.

On **January 31, 2017**, every potential source of water for drinking or preparing food at **P.S. 88 Annex - Queens** (P.S. 239, 869 Cypress Avenue Queens, NY 11385) was tested for lead. The laboratory results showed elevated levels of lead in **1 of the 15 samples** of water taken and tested from outlets in the building. A more detailed letter related to the testing for lead at P.S. 88 Annex - Queens is attached and complete test results are posted on the DOE website.

In any building where lead test results show even one water outlet above the action level of 15 parts per billion, the DOE will implement its standard response protocol, which includes removing any drinking or cooking water fixture outlet from service, flushing all or part of the system to eliminate water sitting in pipes overnight, replacing equipment and re-testing after the equipment is replaced.

Each affected drinking or cooking water fixture at P.S. 88 Annex - Queens will remain out of service until it is remediated and future testing shows that the water does not have an elevated level of lead. The custodial staff will also continue to flush the P.S. 88 Annex - Queens water systems on Monday mornings before school starts in order to eliminate water that has been stagnant in pipes over the weekend and to ensure safe drinking water is available for students and staff.

Please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/watersafety.htm> to learn more about the robust protocol we use to ensure the safety of drinking water in each and every school, as well as to look up water test results for their child's school.

We will keep you updated on the remediation work at P.S. 88 Annex - Queens, and thank you for your patience and support.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth A. Rose



A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND STAFF
P.S. 88 Annex - Queens
P.S. 239
869 Cypress Avenue Queens, NY 11385
LEAD TESTING OF SCHOOL DRINKING WATER
February 7, 2017

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 15 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is first draw testing of school drinking water for lead?

The “on-again, off-again” nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This “first draw” sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What are the results of the first draw testing?

| Samples Collected on 01/31/2017 | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------|---------------------|----------------|
| Floor | Function / Space | Room | Fixture Type | Sample Results |
| 01 | KITCHEN | 109a | COLD WATER FAUCET 4 | 43.5 ppb |

What is being done in response to the results?

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (15 ppb) at P.S. 88 Annex - Queens have been taken out of service and will be replaced. Each of the affected fixtures will remain out of service until remediation work is completed and future testing provides results below the action level.

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building's plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.



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Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors; for example, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Do elevated lead levels in school drinking water pose a serious risk to students and staff?

The risk to students and staff is low for many reasons. The elevated lead levels identified by the recent round of water testing are not likely to represent the levels seen throughout the day. The recent testing was conducted on water that had remained in pipes overnight. The lead concentration drops sharply after the first use of the day as stagnant water is cleared from the pipes and new, fresh water is brought in from the water main – which is virtually lead-free. In addition, for most students and staff, the amount of water consumed from a school water source during a school day is likely to be small when compared to total daily water consumption. Many of the elevated water samples came from fixtures that are not typically used for drinking, including bathrooms, slop sinks, and laboratories. Given all of these factors it is unlikely that these elevations represent conditions that would pose a health risk, however, if a person drinks sufficiently large quantities of water at those high levels over long periods of time, the risk increases. Nonetheless, if you are concerned about exposure to lead, talk to your doctor about having you or your child tested for lead poisoning.

Who is at risk for lead poisoning?

Children under 3 years of age are the most susceptible and vulnerable to the health effects of lead. Lead also poses a risk to the developing fetus. Exposure to lead may interfere with a child's growth and development.

What do we know about rates of lead poisoning in NYC children?

Rates of lead poisoning among NYC children have been falling. In 2015, 5,371 New York City children younger than 6 years of age were identified with blood lead levels of 5 mcg/dL or greater. This represents an 18% decline from 2014 when there were 6,550 children with blood lead levels of 5 mcg/dL or greater, and an 86% decline since 2005 when there were 37,344 children with blood lead levels of 5mcg/dL or greater.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results go to:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/watersafety.htm>

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

For information about NYS Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, go to:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (available in ten languages).



EMSL Analytical, Inc.

200 Route 130 North, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Phone: (856) 303-2500 Fax: (856) 858-4571 Email: EnvChemistry2@emsl.com

Attn:

Jon Vafiadis
Precision Environmental
36-15 A 23rd Street
2nd floor
Long Island City, NY 11106

2/3/2017

Phone: (718) 383-2626
Fax: (718) 383-7780

The following analytical report covers the analysis performed on samples submitted to EMSL Analytical, Inc. on 2/2/2017. The results are tabulated on the attached data pages for the following client designated project:

Q876/ P.S. 88 Annex - Queens/ 869 Cypress Avenue/ Queens/ PEI
Project #: 2181-17-0456

The reference number for these samples is EMSL Order #011700892. Please use this reference when calling about these samples. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (856) 303-2500.

Approved By:

Phillip Worby, Chemistry Laboratory Manager



The test results contained within this report meet the requirements of NELAP and/or the specific certification program that is applicable, unless otherwise noted.
NELAP Certifications: NJ 03036, NY 10872, PA 68-00367, CA ELAP 187

The samples associated with this report were received in good condition unless otherwise noted. This report relates only to those items tested as received by the laboratory. The QC data associated with the sample results meet the recovery and precision requirements established by the NELAP, unless specifically indicated. All results for soil samples are reported on a dry weight basis, unless otherwise noted. This report may not be reproduced except in full and without written approval by EMSL Analytical, Inc.

**EMSL Analytical, Inc.**

200 Route 130 North, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Phone/Fax: (856) 303-2500 / (856) 858-4571

<http://www.EMSL.com>EnvChemistry2@emsl.com

EMSL Order: 011700892

CustomerID: PCIS63

CustomerPO:

ProjectID:

Attn: **Jon Vafiadis**
Precision Environmental
36-15 A 23rd Street
2nd floor
Long Island City, NY 11106

Phone: (718) 383-2626
 Fax: (718) 383-7780
 Received: 02/02/17 7:00 AM

Project: Q876/ P.S. 88 Annex - Queens/ 869 Cypress Avenue/ Queens/ PEI Project #: 2181-17-0456

Analytical Results

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601BR000103.1F-001 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0001

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | 2.98 | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601BR000104.1F-002 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0002

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | 1.67 | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601BB000102.1F-003 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0003

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | 1.68 | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601BB000102.2F-004 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0004

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | ND | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601GB000105.1F-005 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0005

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | ND | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601GB000105.2F-006 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0006

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | ND | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601HA000103.1B-007 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0007

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | ND | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

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EMSL Order: 011700892
 CustomerID: PCIS63
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Attn: **Jon Vafiadis**
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36-15 A 23rd Street
2nd floor
Long Island City, NY 11106

Phone: (718) 383-2626
 Fax: (718) 383-7780
 Received: 02/02/17 7:00 AM

Project: Q876/ P.S. 88 Annex - Queens/ 869 Cypress Avenue/ Queens/ PEI Project #: 2181-17-0456

Analytical Results

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601KI00109A.1F-008 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0008

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | 3.56 | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601KI00109A.2F-009 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0009

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | 3.89 | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601KI00109A.3F-010 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0010

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | 14.5 | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87601KI00109A.4F-011 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0011

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | 43.5 | 5.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87602BB000208.1F-012 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0012

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | ND | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87602GB000207.1F-013 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0013

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | ND | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Client Sample Description 1CQ87602HA000208.1B-014 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0014

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | ND | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

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Phone: (718) 383-2626
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 Received: 02/02/17 7:00 AM

Project: Q876/ P.S. 88 Annex - Queens/ 869 Cypress Avenue/ Queens/ PEI Project #: 2181-17-0456

Analytical Results

Client Sample Description 1CQ87602MO000206.1F-015 **Collected:** 1/31/2017 **Lab ID:** 0015

| Method | Parameter | Result | RL | Units | Prep Date | Analyst | Analysis Date | Analyst |
|--------|-----------|--------|------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 200.8 | Lead | 3.47 | 1.00 | µg/L | 2/2/2017 | CB | 2/2/2017 | BB |

Definitions:

ND - indicates that the analyte was not detected at the reporting limit

RL - Reporting Limit (Analytical)

CONSULTANT INFORMATION













Name: Precision Environmental Inc.
 Address: 36-15A 23rd Street, LIC, NY 11106
 Project Manager: Jon Vafiadis
 PEI Project#: 2181-17-0456

PROJECT INFORMATION

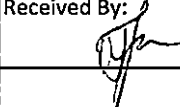
BLDG ID: Q876
 BLDG Name: P.S. 88 ANNEX - QUEENS
 BLDG Address: 869 CYPRESS AVENUE
 WO # Queens

NON-SAMPLABLE OUTLET LEGEND

INACCESSIBLE I
 OUT-OF-ORDER O
 YELLOW TAG T
 MISCELLANEOUS M

| | | (ppb) | | | | | (ppb) | | | |
|--|--|-------|--|------------------|---|---|-------------|--|------------------|----|
| 1ST COC Q876 01 FL ADULT BATHROOM 000103 COLD WATER FAUCET 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 02:15 | | | | I O T M | 1 | 1ST COC Q876 01 FL HALLWAY 000103 BUBBLER 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 03:15 | | | I O T M | 7 |
| 1ST COC Q876 01 FL ADULT BATHROOM 000104 COLD WATER FAUCET 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 02:30 | | | | I O T M | 2 | 1ST COC Q876 01 FL KITCHEN 00109A COLD WATER FAUCET 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 03:40 | | | I O T M | 8 |
| 1ST COC Q876 01 FL BOYS BATHROOM 000102 COLD WATER FAUCET 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 02:35 | | | | I O T M | 3 | 1ST COC Q876 01 FL KITCHEN 00109A COLD WATER FAUCET 2  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 03:50 | | | I O T M | 9 |
| 1ST COC Q876 01 FL BOYS BATHROOM 000102 COLD WATER FAUCET 2  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 02:40 | | | | I O T M | 4 | 1ST COC Q876 01 FL KITCHEN 00109A COLD WATER FAUCET 3  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 04:50 | | | I O T M | 10 |
| 1ST COC Q876 01 FL GIRLS BATHROOM 000105 COLD WATER FAUCET 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 02:50 | | | | I O T M | 5 | 1ST COC Q876 01 FL KITCHEN 00109A COLD WATER FAUCET 4  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 04:10 | 2017 JAN 31 | | I O T M | 11 |
| 1ST COC Q876 01 FL GIRLS BATHROOM 000105 COLD WATER FAUCET 2  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 03:50 | | | | I O T M | 6 | 1ST COC Q876 02 FL BOYS BATHROOM 000208 COLD WATER FAUCET 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 04:20 | PM 5:03 | | I O T M | 12 |

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

| Relinquished By: | Received By: | Date: | Time: |
|------------------------|---|---------|---------|
| 1 <u>BUKOLA BAKARE</u> |  | 1/31/17 | 6:03 PM |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | <u>JM COURIER</u> | 2/1/17 | 7:05 pm |

INSTRUCTIONS TO LABORATORY: Please email results to:

LABORATORY INFORMATION

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Laboratory Name: <u>EMSL Analytical</u> | Method of Analysis: <u>200.8</u> |
| Analyzed By: <u>Barbra Bidale</u> | Date: <u>2/2/2017</u> |
| Note: No sample submitted if "I", "O", "T", or "M" check-marked. | Time: _____ |
| | Preservative: _____ |
| | Sample Size: 250 mL |

rec'd by Steven Lopez on 2/2/17 @ 7:00am 21.1

CONSULTANT INFORMATION




Name: Precision Environmental Inc.
 Address: 36-15A 23rd Street, LIC, NY 11106
 Project Manager: Jon Vafiadis
 PEI Project#: 2181-17-0456

PROJECT INFORMATION

BLDG ID: **Q876**
 BLDG Name: P.S. 88 ANNEX - QUEENS
 BLDG Address: 869 CYPRESS AVENUE
 WO # Queens

NON-SAMPLABLE OUTLET LEGEND

INACCESSIBLE I
 OUT-OF-ORDER O
 YELLOW TAG T
 MISCELLANEOUS M

| | (ppb) | | | (ppb) | |
|--|-------|------------------|----|------------|------------------|
| 1ST COC Q876 02 FL GIRLS BATHROOM 000207 COLD WATER FAUCET 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 04:30 | | I O T M | 13 | | I O T M |
| 1ST COC Q876 02 FL HALLWAY 000208 BUBBLER 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 04:35 | | I O T M | 14 | | I O T M |
| 1ST COC Q876 02 FL MEDICAL OFFICE 000206 COLD WATER FAUCET 1  DATE 1/31/17 TIME 04:45 | | I O T M | 15 | | I O T M |
| | | I O T M | | | I O T M |
| | | I O T M | | 2017 JAN 3 | I O T M |
| | | I O T M | | PM 6:03 | I O T M |

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Relinquished By: | Received By: | Date: | Time: |
| 1 <i>BUKOLA BAKARE</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> | 1/31/17 | 6:03 PM |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |

INSTRUCTIONS TO LABORATORY: Please email results to:

LABORATORY INFORMATION

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Laboratory Name: <i>EMSL Analytical</i> | Method of Analysis: <i>200-8</i> |
| Analyzed By: <i>Barbra Biddle</i> | Date: <i>2/2/2017</i> Time: |
| Note: No sample submitted if "I", "O", "T", or "M" check-marked. | Preservative: Sample Size: 250 mL |

rec'd by Steven Lopez on 2/2/17 @ 7:00am 21.1