



**Department of
Education**

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Elizabeth A. Rose February 8, 2017

Deputy Chancellor

Division of Operations Dear Families and Staff:

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New York, NY 10007**

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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 24, 2017**, every potential source of water for drinking or preparing food at **P.S. 47 - Queens** (P.S. 047 Chris Galas, 9 Power Road Queens, NY 11693) was tested for lead. The laboratory results showed elevated levels of lead in **1 of the 10 samples** of water taken and tested from outlets in the building. A more detailed letter related to the testing for lead at P.S. 47 - 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. 47 - 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. 47 - 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. 47 - Queens, and thank you for your patience and support.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth A. Rose



A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND STAFF

P.S. 47 - Queens

P.S. 047 Chris Galas

9 Power Road Queens, NY 11693

LEAD TESTING OF SCHOOL DRINKING WATER

February 8, 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 01/24/2017				
Floor	Function / Space	Room	Fixture Type	Sample Results
01	GIRLS BATHROOM	8	COLD WATER FAUCET 1	30.4 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. 47 - 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).

LABORATORY REPORT

Louis Berger & Associates, PC
48 Wall Street
16th Floor
New York, NY 10005

Attn: Michael Gelfand
Phone: 212-612-7933

Email: mgelfand@louisberger.com

RJ Lee Group Job No.: PA260120170007
Samples Received: January 26, 2017
Report Date: February 1, 2017
BLDG ID - Name Q047 PS 47 - QUEENS
Address: 9 POWER ROAD, QUEENS, NY
Purchase Order No.: 2011248.1061.50.02
Prep/Analysis: EPA 200.8

Client Sample ID	RJ Lee Group ID	Sampling Date	Preparation/ Analysis	Analyte	Matrix	Sample Concentration Total µg/L (PPB)	Minimum Reporting Limit µg/L (PPB)	Analysis Date	Q
Q04701BR000010.1F-001	PA260120170007-001	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	1.67	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701BB00006.1F-003	PA260120170007-002	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	5.04	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701GB00008.1F-007	PA260120170007-003	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	30.4	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701KIKITCHE.1F-009	PA260120170007-004	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	4.47	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701KIKITCHE.3F-011	PA260120170007-005	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	2.76	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701BR00009.1F-002	PA260120170007-006	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	1.78	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701BB00006.2F-004	PA260120170007-007	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	3.09	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701GB00008.2F-008	PA260120170007-008	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	2.42	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701KIKITCHE.2F-010	PA260120170007-009	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	2.94	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC
Q04701MO00005.1F-012	PA260120170007-010	2017-01-24	EPA 200.8	Lead	Drinking Water	6.06	1.00	01/30/2017	PNC

Analyst Comments:

Report Qualifiers (Q):

P : PA-DEP Accredited (PA DEP Lab ID 02-00396, NELAP)
N : NY ELAP Accredited (NY ELAP Lab Code 10884)
C : CA ELAP Accredited (CA ELAP Certificate 1970)
— : Test (analyte-matrix-preparation-analysis) is performed under RJLG's General Quality System requirements and is not part to any of the above scopes of accreditations

E = Value above highest calibration standard
J = Value below lowest calibration standard but above MDL (Method Detection Limit)
L = LCS (Laboratory Control Standard)/SRM (Standard Reference Material) recovery outside accepted recovery limits
H = Holding times for preparation or analysis exceeded

B = Analyte detected in the associated Method Blank
S = Spike Recovery outside accepted limits
R = RPD (relative percent difference) outside accepted limits
D = RL (reporting limit verification) outside accepted limits
NP = Not Provided

These results are submitted pursuant to RJ Lee Group's current terms and conditions of sale, including the company's standard warranty and limitation of liability provisions. No responsibility or liability is assumed for the manner in which the results are used or interpreted. Unless notified in writing to return the samples covered by this report, RJ Lee Group will store the samples for a period of thirty (30) days before discarding. A shipping and handling fee will be assessed for the return of any samples.

This laboratory operates in accord with ISO 17025:2005 guidelines, and holds a limited scope of accreditations under different accrediting agencies; refer to <http://www.rjl.com/about-us/accreditations/> for more information and current status. This report may not be used to claim product endorsement by any laboratory accrediting agency. The results contained in this report relate only to the items tested or to the sample(s) as received by the laboratory. Any reproduction of this document must be in full for the report to be valid.

Unless otherwise noted (either in the comments section of the report and/or with the appropriate qualifiers under the report qualifiers (Q) column) the following apply: (a) Samples were received in good condition, (b) All QC samples are within acceptable established limits, (c) All samples designated as NELAP meet the requirements of the NELAC standard; if not applicable qualifiers will be used to designate the non-compliance and (d) Results have not been blank corrected. Quality Control data is available upon request.

Philip Grindle

Philip Grindle
Laboratory Supervisor

PA260120170007

CONSULTANT INFORMATION

Name: Jeff Leed
 Address: Louis Berger, 48 Wall Street, NY, NY
 Project Manager: M. Gelfand

PROJECT INFORMATION

BLDG ID: Q047
 BLDG Name: P.S. 47 - QUEENS
 Address: 9 POWER ROAD, QUEENS, NY
 WO # 2011248.1061.50.02

NON-SAMPLABLE OUTLET LEGEND

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

(ppb)				(ppb)			
1ST COC Q047 01 FL ADULT BATHROOM 000010 COLD WATER FAUCET 1 DATE 1/24 TIME 101			I O T M	1ST COC Q047 01 FL ADULT BATHROOM 00009 COLD WATER FAUCET 1 DATE 1/24 TIME 101			I O T M
1ST COC Q047 01 FL BOYS BATHROOM 00006 COLD WATER FAUCET 1 DATE 1/24 TIME 102			I O T M	1ST COC Q047 01 FL BOYS BATHROOM 00006 COLD WATER FAUCET 2 DATE 1/24 TIME 103			I O T M
1ST COC Q047 01 FL GIRLS BATHROOM 00008 COLD WATER FAUCET 1 DATE 1/24 TIME 106			I O T M	1ST COC Q047 01 FL GIRLS BATHROOM 00008 COLD WATER FAUCET 2 DATE 1/24 TIME 101			I O T M
1ST COC Q047 01 FL KITCHEN KITCHE COLD WATER FAUCET 1 DATE 1/24 TIME 108			I O T M	1ST COC Q047 01 FL KITCHEN KITCHE COLD WATER FAUCET 2 DATE 1/24 TIME 108			I O T M
1ST COC Q047 01 FL KITCHEN KITCHE COLD WATER FAUCET 3 DATE 1/24 TIME 109			I O T M	1ST COC Q047 01 FL MEDICAL OFFICE 00005 COLD WATER FAUCET 1 DATE 1/24 TIME 110			I O T M
			I O T M				I O T M

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Relinquished By:	Received By:	Date:	Time:
1 <u>LF Leed</u> <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	1/24/17	
2		012617	1100
3			

INSTRUCTIONS TO LABORATORY: Please email results to:

TURN AROUND TIME: 1 WEEK

LABORATORY INFORMATION

Laboratory Name: <u>RUIG</u>	Method of Analysis: <u>EPA 2008</u>
Analyzed By: <u>KSD</u>	Date: <u>01/30/17</u> Time: <u>0815</u>
Note: No sample submitted if "I", "O", "T", or "M" check-marked.	Preservative: <u>HNO3</u> Sample Size: <u>250 mL</u>