

May 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

North Haledon Board of Education  
High Mountain School

Dear High Mountain School Parents, Guardians and Staff:

North Haledon Board of Education is committed to protecting High Mountain students' and staff's health. As required by the Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead. North Haledon Board of Education has scheduled the lead drinking water sampling for High Mountain School for April 13<sup>th</sup> 2017.

#### Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. 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.

Lead is rarely found in the source water; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines). Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be "lead free". The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

#### What Actions We Are Taking?

Prior to sampling, North Haledon Board of Education developed a Lead Sampling Plan for High Mountain School and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the school to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or a lead service line are present.

North Haledon Board of Education Lead Sampling Plan may be found on our website at [www.nhschools.net](http://www.nhschools.net).

All drinking water outlets in High Mountain School will be sampled on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2017. We anticipate receiving the results from our laboratory within two weeks of sampling. Upon

receiving the sample results, North Haledon Board of Education will inform you if any of the drinking water outlets had a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]) and will post all of the results on our website at [www.nhschools.net](http://www.nhschools.net). The results will be used to assist in the prioritization of future water testing for lead in accordance with High Mountain School's Lead Sampling Plan.

High Mountain School will also implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (ppb). This will include 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.

#### How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact John Maguire at North Haledon Department of Buildings & Grounds at 973-427-1220. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html>.

Sincerely,



Nicholas S. Coffaro  
Superintendent of Schools

May 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

North Haledon Board of Education  
High Mountain School  
515 High Mountain Rd.  
North Haledon N.J. 07508

Dear High Mountain School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, North Haledon Board of Education tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, High Mountain School will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (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.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within North Haledon. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 13 samples taken, all but 1 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action North Haledon Board of Education has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

<b>Sample Location</b>	<b>First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)</b>	<b>Remedial Action</b>
Water Fountain by 138 right side at High Mountain School	28.8	Water fountain was turned off.

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.

#### For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at [www.nhschools.net](http://www.nhschools.net). For more information about water quality in our schools, contact John Maguire at the Department of Buildings & Grounds, 973-427-1220.

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](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Coffaro', written in a cursive style.

Nicholas S. Coffaro  
Superintendent of Schools