



**Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools**

“WHERE STUDENTS COME FIRST”

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Water Testing at GJPS**

#### **WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO TEST THE WATER IN ALL THE SCHOOLS?**

As part of our continuing work to proactively monitor the state of our facilities, Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools recently hired outside experts (Gandee & Associates, Inc.) to evaluate water in our school buildings.

- This is a common practice in school districts, particularly those with older buildings.
- We found that we had no previous data on water quality in our schools and wanted to have a baseline measure. We also wanted to find out what the issues might be and fix them.

#### **WHAT DID THE TEST RESULTS SHOW?**

After submitting hundreds of water samples from 12 buildings in our district, test results have indicated elevated levels in some of the sinks in our building. The [attached table](#) indicates, by building, those rooms/areas found to have elevated levels.

#### **WHY DO SOME OF OUR SINKS HAVE ELEVATED LEVELS?**

After speaking with several water quality experts, including those at the Ohio EPA and the Franklin County Board of Health, we believe some older faucets that are not used frequently and for long periods of time have built up corrosion, a mix of lead, brass, and copper.

These experts have given us excellent guidance and are committed to remaining engaged with us throughout our process.

#### **WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO REMEDIATE THE PROBLEM?**

We immediately turned off water to the affected sinks.

The following steps will be taken with each impacted faucet before it is returned to service:

- Replace fixture and water lines
- Flush the new faucet to remove any remaining lead from the water system
- Retest the water from each faucet that was replaced
- Only when the test indicates the water is within normal limits will the faucet be returned to service

Work is expected to be done over the Thanksgiving holiday while the buildings are not occupied.

We are providing sufficient bottled water to each building until all water systems test within normal limits.

### **WHAT IF THE RETESTS STILL SHOW ELEVATED LEVELS OF LEAD?**

We are confident, based on the guidance we have been given from the Ohio EPA and Franklin County Board of Health, replacing faucets will lower the levels of lead to the normal range.

- Once the impacted faucets have been replaced and flushed, they will not be used until each faucet is retested and results indicate normal levels.
- If a retest continues to show an elevated level of lead, we will consult the experts on the next steps to take.

### **WHY IS THERE NO PREVIOUS DATA OF WATER QUALITY IN OUR SCHOOLS?**

At this time, we do not have records of water in the buildings being tested. We can't really speculate on past decisions but can tell you that we determined that this process was essential as part of our ongoing infrastructure monitoring.

While this is a trying time for our schools, we are grateful to have identified these issues so they can be corrected.

### **IS THIS A PROBLEM WITH COLUMBUS OR GAHANNA CITY WATER?**

No. The problem is not with water coming **into** the buildings from Columbus or Gahanna.

### **I WANT TO HAVE MYSELF/MY CHILD TESTED. WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

If you have health or related concerns, we recommend you contact your physician or other medical professionals to answer your questions.

### **WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN WATER?**

For more information, please visit the following websites.

[www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)