

Egg Harbor City Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICES

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Egg Harbor City School District
Charles L. Spragg School
601 Buffalo Avenue
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215

Dear Spragg School Community:

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, the Egg Harbor City School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

Why Test School Drinking Water for 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 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.

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and day care facilities test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 20 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead.

Is Our School's Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools' water is safe.

The Egg Harbor City School District tested our drinking water for lead on December 27, 2016. Of the 27 water samples we tested, only 2 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. In other words, 93% of the water outlets tested did not have any lead problems.

The first outlet with high lead levels was a bubbler at Nurse's Office at the Spragg School. We identified the source of the lead so we could fix the problem. The faucet for this drinking water bubbler was made of lead parts. (Lead was often used in plumbing materials until it was banned in 1986). The bubbler at the Nurse's Office was permanently removed and they now use bottled water and the problem is fixed.

The second outlet with high lead levels was a faucet in the kitchen of the Spragg School. We found the source of the lead were the faucets on the sink. We replaced the faucets with lead and

brass-free fixtures following NSF standards. Then we tested the water again and found the problem was fixed.

While we conducted the replacement of the faucets, we made sure no one used those outlets until we had fixed the lead problems.

How Can I Learn More?

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at the school district's central office, which is open Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm and on our Web site at ehcs.k12.nj.us. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Joseph Smurlo, Business Administrator at the Egg Harbor City School District, 609-965-1034 X101. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Shulby,
Superintendent of Schools