



SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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Nicholas D. Young, Ph.D., Ed.D., MBA
Superintendent of Schools

August 16, 2018

Dear Students, Families, and Staff of the South Hadley Public Schools:

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide the safest and most secure environment for all of our students and employees, the South Hadley Public Schools sought a grant through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to test the quality of the drinking water in terms of lead and copper levels in our taps and fixtures in all four school buildings on June 16, 2018. This program was designed to augment an existing testing program already in place in collaboration with the two Town of South Hadley water departments. Under this grant program, water samples were taken at each tap or fixture for both a first draw sample with the water standing in the tap overnight as well as a flushed sample after the tap was run. These results were recently released and we wanted to share them fully with the school community.

While our overall water quality continues to be within normal limits, a handful of water sources—three bubblers at the high school, two sinks at Mosier, and one hand sink at the middle school --were identified as having results above the actionable level for lead and or copper. Rather than employ alternative means of flushing or labeling these sources for non-consumption, we have proactively replaced the aforementioned bubblers and are in the process of replacing the sinks at Mosier as of the release of this letter. The final handwashing sink at the middle school, while not a traditional drinking water source, has been disabled to prevent anyone from consuming water from it. We are also retesting these water sources out of an abundance of caution. Rest assured that all taps and fixtures identified will be changed or disabled before the start of school.

We are posting the specific test results and Frequently Asked Questions fact sheets from the MA DEP on the school district website www.southhadleyschools.org under the district tab labeled “District Water Test Results 2018” as well as sharing this information with the media. We are also providing the relevant links below from the MassDEP and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for those who wish additional information.

For MassDEP information on lead and copper in drinking water see:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/how-to-collect-a-drinking-water-sample-for-lead-and-copper.html>

Lead: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-in-drinking-water.html>

Copper: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/a-thru-h/copperfs.pdf>

For Massachusetts Department of Public Health information on Lead and Copper

see: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/lead/child-health/sources-of-lead-besides-lead-paint.html>.

In closing, we wanted you to be aware of the steps we have taken to ensure all water in our taps and fixtures, in all four school buildings, meets the rigorous standards for safe water consumption. Last, but not least, thank you for your ongoing support of the South Hadley Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Young, Ph.D., Ed.D., MBA
Superintendent of Schools