

Consumer Notice of Tap Water Results for LEAD

PWS ID #NY0615959

10/13/22

As you may know, Pine Valley Central School is also a public water system because we are responsible for providing you with water at this location and ensuring that the drinking water we provide to you meets state and federal standards. We collected 10 drinking water samples for lead and copper on September 13, 2022. We are happy to report that all of the samples for our water system are well below the lead action level of 15 parts per billion (see 90th percentile definition below under What Does This Mean). Our 90th percentile for lead was 1.3 parts per billion.

We did have one copper result that exceeded the copper action level of 1.3 parts per million. However, our system-wide 90th percentile value is 0.637 ppm, which is below the copper action level.

Drinking Water Sample Results for Lead and Copper			
Location	Date	Lead Result (ppb or ug/L)	Copper Result (ppm or mg/L)
High School – Home & Careers	9/13/22	ND*	0.230
High School – Cafetorium	9/13/22	ND*	0.314
High School – Nurse	9/13/22	1.3	0.273
High School – Main Office Conference	9/13/22	1.1	1.61
High School – Pool Drinking Fountain	9/13/22	ND*	0.0971
Elementary – Kitchen Sink	9/13/22	ND*	0.614
Elementary – Nurse	9/13/22	1.6	0.418
Elementary – Kindergarten #4 Drinking Fountain	9/13/22	ND*	0.580
Elementary – Pre-K 31 Drinking Fountain	9/13/22	ND*	0.637
Elementary – Room 17 Sink	9/13/22	ND*	0.439

*Note: A result of ND means that the lead level was below a detectable level.

What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the taps used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow*. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of

zero for lead. The MCLG is *the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.*

What Are The Health Effects of Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. 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. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

What Are The Health Effects of Copper?

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

What Are The Sources of Lead?

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place (jobs that include house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, jewelry or pottery repair) and exposure from certain hobbies (such as stained glass or pottery, fishing, making or shooting firearms and collecting lead or pewter figurines), as lead can be carried on clothing and shoes. Children's hands or their toys can come into contact with lead in paint, dust and soil. Therefore, washing children's hands and their toys will help reduce the potential for lead exposure from these sources. Plumbing materials, including pipes, new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up to 2 percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

- ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds [or insert a different flushing time if your system has representative data indicating a different flushing time would better reduce lead exposure in your community and if the State approves the wording] or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.

- ▶ ***Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.*** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- ▶ ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.

For More Information

Call us at (716) 988-3291 X3333. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services at 716-753-4481, or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1 800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at (518) 402-7650, or by email at bpwsp@health.state.ny.us. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.