

## Hartland School



**Ms. Laura H. Hollingsworth**  
Principal

**Dr. Anthony Distasio**  
Superintendent of School

February 23, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On February 16, 2016, Hartland School was informed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health that water tested from two sinks in our school exceeds the acceptable level of lead. The two sinks in question are located in the library and computer classrooms. All other areas tested, fountains and sinks, have all tested well below the acceptable levels for lead and are fine for consumption and use. The two sinks that tested for excessive amounts of lead are rarely used at all, especially for student or staff water consumption, which contributed to the excessive lead test results in those two sinks. Because those two sinks are rarely used, water tended to stay stagnant in the pipes and pipe fittings, which led to the corrosion in the pipe's fittings and the leaching of lead into the water in those two sinks.

As a result, on the advice and guidance of the company that conducted the water testing, JH Barlow, we have suspended the use of the sinks in the library and computer classroom for water consumption. Additionally, from the suggestion from JH Barlow, our custodial staff will systematically flush those two sinks by running the water on a regular basis. This should correct the lead issue. Again, it is important to note that all other areas tested, fountains and sinks, have all tested well below the acceptable levels for lead and are fine for consumption. We will also continue to test and monitor the water at Hartland School to make certain that all areas continue to meet the parameters for acceptable use and consumption.

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40, Part 141 Section 85, in addition to the corrective action mentioned above, we are doing the following: sending this notice to all parents concerning the findings of the exceedance of lead in the two aforementioned areas of the school along with information entitled *Important Information about Lead in your Drinking Water*. We will also post this letter and attachment in several areas of Hartland School and at the Hartland Town Hall, and place this information on Hartland School's and the Hartland Town Hall's websites.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to call Ms. Hollingsworth, Principal of Hartland School at 860-653-7202.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Distasio".

Dr. Anthony W. Distasio,  
Superintendent of Schools

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Hartland Elementary School \_\_\_\_\_ found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. *Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.* Although most homes have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some homes in the community have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L).

### **What Happened? What is being done?**

Under State and Federal law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water. This program includes corrosion control treatment, source water treatment, and public education. We are currently conducting additional monitoring and reviewing treatment options to correct the situation. We are also required to replace the portion of each lead service line that we own if the line contributes lead concentrations of more than 15 ppb after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program.

This brochure explains the simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation please call 860-653-7207.

### **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.*

### **Sources of Lead**

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead can also be found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

Drinking water is also a possible source of lead exposure. Most sources of drinking water have no lead or very low levels of lead. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). 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 to 8.0%. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

### **Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water**

Despite our best efforts mentioned earlier to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your own

home, have your drinking water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Testing the water is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. For more information on having your water tested, please call 860-653-7207.

If a water test indicates that the drinking water drawn from a tap in your home contains lead above 15 ppb, then you can take the following precautions:

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 15-30 seconds. If your house has a lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps one minute, before drinking. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your family's health. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible use the first flush water to wash the dishes or water the plants
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not to cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Lead can dissolve more easily in 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.
- **Clean and flush faucets.** Periodically remove the faucet strainers from all taps and flush out any debris that has accumulated over time by running the water for 3 to 5 minutes.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** 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% lead to be labeled as "lead free." Visit the Web site at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.
- **Have an electrician check your wiring.** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Home treatment devices are limited in that each unit treats only the water that flows from the faucet to which it is connected, and all of the devices require periodic maintenance and replacement. Devices such as reverse osmosis systems or distillers can effectively remove lead from your drinking water. Some activated carbon filters may reduce lead levels at the tap, however all lead reduction claims should be investigated. Be sure to check the actual performance of a specific home treatment device before and after installing the unit.
- **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or health care provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

#### **For More Information**

Call us at 860-653-7207 or visit our website [www. hartlandschool.com](http://www.hartlandschool.com)

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

PWS ID: CT0650102

Date Issued: 02/16/2015

# Consumer Notice of Lead Tap Water Results

Public Water System: Hartland Elementary School & Town Building

PWS ID: CT0650102

We are responsible for providing water at this location and ensuring that the drinking water we provide to you meets state and federal standards. This notice is to inform you of the lead tap monitoring results for the drinking water samples collected at the locations identified below:

Drinking Water Sample Results for Lead		
Location	Date	Lead Result (mg/L)
Library	7/9/15	0.018 mg/l
Computer Room	7/9/15	0.028 mg/l
Kitchen	7/9/15	<0.005 mg/l
Room1	7/9/15	<0.005 mg/l
Teachers Room	7/9/15	0.008 mg/l

## What Does This Mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). This means utilities must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled. The action level is the concentration of the contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow 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 Some Sources of Lead?

Although the primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated soil, the U.S. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Although our facility's lead levels were below the action level, if you are concerned about lead exposure in your home, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

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

- *Run the Water To Flush Out Lead.* Run water for 15-30 seconds 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 in 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.
- *Look for alternative sources of water.*

## For More Information

Call us at 860-653-7207. 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.

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE**

**CONSUMER NOTIFICATION OF LEAD TAP WATER MONITORING**

Public Water System ID: CT0650102

Public Water System Name: Hartland Elementary School

Public Water System Town: East Hartland

Notification of lead tap water monitoring results for the period: 7/1/15 to 12/31/15

Consumer Notices delivered within 30 days after learning of the results:  Yes  No

Note: A sample copy of the consumer notification of tap results must be submitted with this certification.

The public water system indicated above hereby affirms that it has provided a notice of the individual tap results from lead tap water monitoring carried out under the requirements of Code of Federal Regulations 141.86 to the persons served by the water system at the specific sampling site from which the sample was taken in accordance with the reporting, content, and delivery requirements of Code of Federal Regulations 141.85(d).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of owner or operator

2/16/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**  
Important Information About Your Drinking Water

**TREATMENT TECHNIQUE VIOLATION**  
**FAILURE TO PROVIDE LEAD PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Date: 2/23/2016

To the Customers of: HARTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & TOWN BUILDINGS

PWS ID: CT0650102

Compliance Period: July, 1 2010 to December 31, 2010; January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011; July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011; January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012; July 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012; January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013; July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013; January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014; July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Our water system recently exceeded the lead action level. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead. The tests show lead levels in the water were above the action level so we are required to provide public education to our consumers regarding the health effects of lead, potential sources and what can be done to reduce exposure. We were supposed to provide public education by 2/28/2015 and failed to do so.

Typically, lead and copper enters water supplies by leaching from pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason; however, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder. Newer homes with copper pipes may be more likely to have a problem with copper levels.

**What should I do?**

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead and copper. If you have specific health concerns, please consult your doctor.

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead or copper.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead and copper from the pipes.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead and copper dissolve more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil your water to remove lead or copper.** Excessive boiling water makes the lead and copper more concentrated – the lead and copper remain when the water evaporates.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. *Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.*

**What is being done?**

The fixtures in the building where the elevated levels of lead were discovered are being flushed regularly.

We are continuing to test the water.

We expect to return to compliance or resolve the situation by \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions please contact The School Office by phone at 860-653-7207 or at the following address Hartland Elementary School 30 South Road, ~~Harwinton~~ Hartland, Ct 06027

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**  
Important Information About Your Drinking Water

**Monitoring and Reporting Violation**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

Date: 2/23/2016

To the Customers of: Hartland Elementary School and Town Buildings PWS ID: CT0650102

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 19-13-B102 requires that suppliers of public water must conduct or have specific laboratory tests to monitor the water quality of their water supply to insure that it meets with the current drinking water standards. Failure to conduct timely monitoring and/or report results of such monitoring to the State Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section constitutes a violation of the RCSA. As your public water supplier, we must formally notify customers of all monitoring violations, or face additional RCSA violations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We did not monitor or test or did not complete all of the monitoring or testing for the requirement(s) listed below and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

Water Quality Parameters (WSF\_ID: 00600; Monitoring Period: 1/1/2013 - 6/30/2013)  
Water Quality Parameters (WSF\_ID: 00700; Monitoring Period: 1/1/2013 - 6/30/2013)  
Water Quality Parameters (WSF\_ID: 00600; Monitoring Period: 7/1/2015 - 12/31/2015)  
Water Quality Parameters (WSF\_ID: 00700; Monitoring Period: 7/1/2015 - 12/31/2015)

**What should I do?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

**What is being done?**

The fixtures in the building where the elevated levels of lead were discovered are being flushed regularly.

We are continuing to test the water.

We expect to return to compliance or resolve the situation by \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

If you have any questions please contact The School Office by phone at 860-653-7207 or at the following address Hartland Elementary School 30 South Road, ~~Harwinton~~ Hartland, Ct 06027

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*