



# Sussex Technical School District

MEMORANDUM



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## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 351  
Georgetown, DE 19947

## Shipping Address

17137 County Seat Hwy.  
Georgetown, DE 19947

## Telephone

302-856-2541

## Fax

302-856-7078

## Website

[www.sussexvt.k12.de.us](http://www.sussexvt.k12.de.us)

August 30, 2017

RE: Consumer Notice of Tap Water Results

Please be aware that the most recent tap water sample tests showed slightly-above-normal levels of copper and lead in the following areas (full results attached):

1. CTC building room 573 – lab sink
2. Adult Education Office Bathroom – sink
3. Room 320 – lab sink

Consequently, please do not drink water from these three locations until further notice.

Please note that the raw water sample did not show contamination; only those three (3) sink faucets noted above were affected.

Upon notification of the reported results, Sussex Tech staff took immediate action to identify the cause of the elevated levels in an effort to remedy the situation. Staff then met with the Delaware Office of Drinking Water to ensure compliance with prescribed measures to guarantee the health and wellbeing of all staff, students, and visitors.

The entire water system will be flushed on a monthly basis to rid the system of any residual offending elements. We will also have the water sampled and retested this week and the following week, and then two (2) additional samples will be taken and tested every six (6) months after that for at least the next 18 months to monitor the levels. We will post an additional notification once the levels are back to the acceptable range.

All other tested areas of the Sussex Tech campus are in the acceptable range and deemed safe for consumption.

All drinking water access points continue to remain potable water sources as well.

Thank you.



## Lead Consumer Notice of Tap Water Results

Public Water System Name: Sussex Technical School District

PWSID#: DE0000291

On 08/13/2017, water samples were collected from Sussex Technical School District located at 17099 County Seat Hwy, Georgetown, DE 19947 and analyzed for lead. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires us to provide each customer served by the facility on a regular basis (e.g., employees, students, etc.) the results of those water samples. The lead results from the samples collected at the above address were as follows:

<u>Sample Location</u>	<u>Lead Result (mg/L)</u>
C.T.C Staff Bathroom	Not Detected
C.T.C Rm 573	0.028
Gym Washer Rm	0.0061
800 Wing Mens Bath Rm	Not Detected
Science Rm 320	0.029
Kitchen Dishwasher Rm	0.0039
High School Office	0.014
Adult Ed. Office	0.030
Faculty Bath 100 Wing	0.0098
Child Care Kitchen	0.0031

The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for our water system is **below** the lead action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.015 mg/L.

The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for our water system is **above** the lead action level of 15 ppb or 1.15 mg/L.

### What does this mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from taps that can be used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90<sup>th</sup> 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. MCLG's 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 can I do to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water?**

If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile lead level for this public water system was greater than the EPA's action level, we strongly urge you to take the measures listed below.

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter to bring with you to this facility. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters.
- **Get your child tested.** (If applicable, i.e., facilities that are schools or child care centers.) Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

### **Additional Information:**

For additional information, call [Mr. Kevin W. Putz at \(302\) 462-6526](tel:3024626526) or the Office of Drinking Water, Lead and Copper Rule Manager at 302-741-8630. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or contact your health care provider.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION NOTICE**

### **Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water**

**Public Water System Name:** Sussex Technical School District

**PWS ID#:** DE0000291

**Address:** 17099 County Seat Hwy, Georgetown, DE 19947

Sussex Technical School District found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some buildings. We were on triennial monitoring for lead testing and collected samples for testing on August 13, 2017. We will begin sampling for lead every six (6) months to closely monitor the lead levels in the system.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. Read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

#### **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 to 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 Sources of Lead?**

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, some children's metal jewelry, and some traditional pottery. The EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Lead is rarely found in source water, however, it enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder; however, new homes are also at risk. The most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures which can leach significant amounts of lead into the water, especially hot 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. Even if your home's drinking water lead levels were below the action level, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children for high levels of lead in the blood if they are concerned about lead exposure.

## 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 to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- **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.
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead.
- **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves may contribute lead to drinking water. Lead solder was commonly used to join copper pipes prior to 1988; it appears dull gray and becomes shiny when scratched with a key. A licensed plumber will be able to help with lead solder identification, and if needed, replacement.
- **Remove debris from plumbing materials.** Remove the faucet strainers from all taps and run the water for 3-5 minutes. Repeat this action periodically to flush out any debris that has accumulated over time.
- **Get your child tested.** (If applicable, i.e., facilities that are schools or child care centers). Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

### Additional Information

Please call us at (302) 462-6526 for more information. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website 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.

Please share this information with all other people who drink the water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or by distributing copies by hand or by mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Sussex Technical School District.



**Delaware Division of Public Health  
Office of Drinking Water**

43 S. DuPont Hwy • Dover, Delaware 19901  
(302) 741-8630; Fax (302) 741-8631

**THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE  
PUBLIC NOTICE APPROVAL AND DELIVERY CERTIFICATION**  
*For Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems*

**WITHIN TEN DAYS OF COMPLETING THE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, SEND THE OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER A COPY OF:**

- A. The notice distributed (one example of each type);
- B. This form with the Certification portion below completed.

***I certify that (check all that apply):***

- This notice has been posted in conspicuous locations throughout the distribution system frequented by persons served by the system or delivered by mail or other direct delivery method, e.g., hand delivery to each customer and service connection (where known). If other direct delivery method, please specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- This notice has reached all persons who may not see a posted notice because the notice is not in a location that they routinely pass by. Please specify delivery method: (e.g., email, newspaper publishing)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The public notice of the failure to monitor for lead and copper was provided no later than 90 days after the water system learned of the violation for failure to monitor for lead and copper.
- The notice included the following information:
  - A description of the violation or situation (i.e., failure to monitor for lead and copper)
  - When the violation or situation occurred
  - Any potential adverse health effects from the violation or situation
  - The population at risk, including subpopulations particularly vulnerable if exposed to the contaminant in their drinking water
  - Whether alternative water supplies should be used
  - What actions consumers should take, including when they should seek medical help, if known
  - What the system is doing to correct the violation or situation
  - When the water system expects to return to compliance or resolve the situation
  - The name, business address, and phone number of the water system owner, operator, or designee of the public water system as a source of additional information concerning the notice
  - A statement to encourage the notice recipient to distribute the public notice to other persons served

SIGNATURE

Mr. Kevin W. Putz  
NAME (printed or typed)

Sussex Technical School District  
WATER SYSTEM NAME

DATE

(302) 462-6526  
PHONE NUMBER

DE0000291  
PWSID

SUSSEX  
COUNTY

Failure to return this certification form will result in a Monitoring & Reporting Violation.  
Return this certification form to:

Lead and Copper Rule Manager  
Office of Drinking Water  
43 South DuPont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901

REV. 07/21/2016