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Interim Superintendent

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Dear Bayonne High School Community,

The Bayonne Board of Education is committed to protecting the health of our students, teachers and staff. As required by the NJ Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead. Drinking waters at Bayonne High School was conducted on June 16 and June 22.

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. In *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

In an effort 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), the EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead. The level utilized by the NJDEP is 15 parts per billion (ppb).

Is Our School's Drinking Water Safe?
Yes, our schools' water is safe. The Bayonne School District tested our drinking water for lead. There were 73 water samples taken at Bayonne High School and 3 of them showed lead levels above the 20 ppb or 15 ppb mark. We have begun the process to remediate the 3 water sources. Two of three are in offices with no student content and the 3rd is a sink in a cafeteria.

Results
All 73 water outlets were identified and samples were taken. Of the samples taken, 3 outlets were at or above the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15ug/l) (ppb)

1ST SAMPLE TAKEN:

SAMPLE LOCATION	FIRST DRAW RESULT	REMEDIAL ACTION
Principal's Office Sink – 1fl	31.8	Discontinue water use. Further testing will be conducted to identify the location of contamination
Senior Cafeteria Sink – 3 fl	20.4	Discontinue water use.

		Further testing will be conducted to identify the location of contamination
Sink in Student Center – 1fl	34.8	Discontinue water use. Further testing will be conducted to identify location of contamination

In coming weeks we will be working on solutions to maintain a reduced lead level in these areas and conduct follow up testing. Only after appropriate remedial measure have been completed and follow up testing completed will the drinking water locations be placed back into service.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. 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 supplies. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements subject to corrosion. This means that the first water drawn from the tap in the morning may contain fairly high levels of lead.

How Can I Learn More?

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at the District's Central Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and on our Web site at www.bboed.org. If you have any questions regarding the water quality in our schools, please contact Leo J. Smith, Jr. at 201-858-5560. Information about water quality and sampling for lead at home can be obtained from your local water supplier or state drinking water agency. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and 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, or contact your health care provider.
Upon remediation we will test these 3 sites again and will share the results with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael A. Wanko
Interim Superintendent