

News Release from Grand Ledge Public Schools
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 23, 2019

Willow Ridge Water Issue Fixed

Grand Ledge, MI – Safety of our students and staff is a top priority at Grand Ledge Public Schools. Every year our Maintenance Department tests the water quality at Willow Ridge, Hayes, Wacousta, and Delta Mills -- district buildings that use well water. The other buildings in the district are on City or Township water, and those entities regularly test as well.

Last week, our maintenance department tested eight randomly selected faucets at Willow Ridge Elementary. This week, the results showed that six of the eight faucets were clean. However, two classroom faucets showed levels of lead, slightly higher than recommended, and those two faucets were immediately turned off. All other faucets at Willow Ridge tested clean (including hallway drinking fountains and kitchen faucets).

We are taking a rigorous course of action, out of an abundance of caution and concern for our children, staff, and community. Even as this press release was issued this Friday afternoon, please know that **our maintenance team is currently replacing all faucets and shut-off valves at Willow Ridge Elementary**. This solution goes above and beyond what is suggested by the Barry-Eaton Health Department. As stated earlier, the safety of our students a top priority.

Beginning today, Friday, August 23rd, 2019, the district will be replacing more than 85 faucets and shut-off valves in Willow Ridge Elementary. This work is scheduled to be completed by Saturday, August 24th, 2019. Once all the faucets and shut-off valves have been replaced, we will conduct water tests on all faucets. **Students and staff will have access to bottled water stations until all samples show that the water at Willow Ridge is clean and safe.**

Education materials provided by the Barry-Eaton Health Department are available online at GLcomets.net/WillowRidgeWaterIssueFixed. There is one specific item that I would bring to your attention. The education materials note that state law allowed buildings built between 1996 and 2014 to have fixtures (faucets and shut off valves) that were labelled “lead-free” even though the fixtures actually contained up to eight percent (8%) lead. Since Willow Ridge was built in that time period, we anticipate our efforts to replace all faucets and shut-off valves will solve the immediate issue and proactively alleviate future concerns . . . and we will test the water afterward to make sure it is clean and safe!

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Grand Ledge Public Schools, a community committed to excellence. Grand Ledge Public Schools strives to provide diverse learning opportunities of exemplary quality to promote distinguished student achievement. Our two early childhood centers, one kindergarten building, four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school all endeavor to educate students who are able to collaborate, communicate, and problem solve in a global, multicultural, technological world.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS found elevated lead in drinking water at some drinking water locations in this building. Lead can cause serious health and development 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.

This notice is brought to you by GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health and development 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.

Although other sources of lead exposure exist, such as lead paint, and lead contaminated dust, GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS is contacting you to reduce your risk of exposure to lead in drinking water. If you have questions about other sources of lead exposure, please contact the Barry-Eaton District Health Department at 517-543-2430.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure due to the leaching of lead from plumbing materials that contain lead. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's potential exposure to lead. For infants who consume mostly mixed formula, 40 to 60 percent of their lead exposure might be from drinking water.

The amount of lead and copper leaching from plumbing materials is measured and compared to action levels established by law. These action levels are 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 1.3 parts per million (ppm) for copper. These are not health-based standards, but limits that must be met for drinking water. At least 90 percent of the samples collected must be below the action level. The following table summarizes the lead and copper data collected during the most recent monitoring period:

Most Recent Sampling Information – August 20, 2019

Action Levels	90 th Percentile Value	Range of Results (minimum-maximum)	No. of Samples Used for 90 th Percentile
Lead – 15 ppb	29 ppb	Not Detect - 55 ppb	10
Copper – 1.3 ppm	0.1 ppm	Not Detect – 0.29 ppm	10

Lead can enter drinking water when corrosion occurs to pipes, solder in a building's interior plumbing, fittings, and fixtures that contain lead. Corrosion is the dissolving or wearing away of metal caused by a chemical reaction between water and plumbing. Several factors affect the amount of lead that enters the water, including the water quality characteristics (acidity and alkalinity), the amount of lead in pipes, plumbing and/or fixtures, and the frequency of water use. Older buildings may have more lead, unless plumbing has been replaced.

Buildings built:

- ✓ **Before the 1960s** are more likely to have lead service lines, lead pipes, fixtures, and/or solder that contain lead.
- ✓ **Before 1988** are likely to have fixtures and/or solder that contains lead.

- ✓ **Between 1996 and 2014** are likely to have fixtures that contain up to eight percent lead but were labelled “lead-free.”
- ✓ **In 2014 or later** still have potential lead exposure. “Lead-free” was redefined to reduce lead content to a maximum of 0.25 percent lead in fixtures and fittings. Fixtures that are certified to meet NSF Standard 61 meet this more restrictive definition of “lead-free.”

Drinking water is only one potential source of lead exposure. Other common sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil. Because lead can be carried on hands, clothing, and shoes, sources of exposure to lead can include the workplace and certain hobbies. Wash your and your children’s hands and toys often, as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, food, and cosmetics. If you have questions about other sources of lead exposure, please contact the Barry-Eaton District Health Department.

Particulate Lead

Lead results can vary between sample tests. A single test result is not a reliable indicator of drinking water safety. Two different types of lead can be present in drinking water: soluble lead and particulate lead.

Soluble lead is lead that dissolves because of a chemical reaction between water and plumbing that contains lead.

Particulate lead is dislodged scale and sediment released into the water from the inside walls of the plumbing and can vary greatly between samples. Disturbances, such as construction and excavation activities, well component replacement or rehabilitation activities, or plumbing repairs can cause particulates to break free from the inside walls of pipes and plumbing. Particulate lead is a concern because the lead content can be very high. Lead particulate could be present in a single glass of water, but not present in water sampled just before or after. During construction, monthly aerator cleaning and using a filter certified to reduce lead are recommended to reduce particulate lead exposure.

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

1. ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** The more time water has been sitting in your building’s pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. Additional flushing may be required in areas where little to no water usage occurs.
2. ***Use cold water for drinking and cooking.*** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
3. ***Use cold water for preparing baby formula.*** Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula. If you have a lead service line, consider using bottled water or a filter certified to reduce lead to prepare baby formula.
4. ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead levels.
5. ***Get your child tested.*** If you have concerns regarding your child’s blood levels, contact your health care provider or local health department on how you can have your child’s blood tested.

Steps We Are Taking to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

1. ***Options to reduce exposure.*** We are taking steps to reduce your exposure to lead in our drinking water. This may include providing an alternate source of bottled water or making available the use of either pour-pitcher or faucet-mounted filter systems. Alternatively, we may cease the use of any elevated drinking water taps until we have addressed the issue. In the case filters are used, we will ensure that the filter meets NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the reduction of lead, and that they will be maintained in accordance to the manufacturer’s specifications.
2. ***Identifying older plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead.*** Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead, even if marked “lead-free.” Faucets, fittings, and valves sold after January 2014 are required to meet a more restrictive “lead-free” definition, but may still contain

up to 0.25 percent lead. We are evaluating our plumbing to determine if any older plumbing or fixtures will need to be replaced.

What Water System is Doing

The action level was exceeded for lead during the most recent round of monitoring of drinking water taps. Sample locations and sample results are available and will be posted via the Consumer Notice of Drinking Water Lead and Copper Sampling.

Fixtures showing elevated lead levels have been removed from service and bottled water is currently being provided until such time we have obtained satisfactory levels. Furthermore, we have begun to take corrective action, which involves additional sampling and performing a plumbing assessment. The additional monitoring and plumbing assessment will help us determine if fixtures or connecting plumbing should be replaced with new "lead-free" materials, and help to assess the option of corrosion control treatment.

Call us at Operations Department of Grand Ledge Public Schools Operations at (517) 925-5430 or visit the State of Michigan's lead information Web page at <https://www.michigan.gov/MILeadSafe>. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's lead information Web page at <https://www.epa.gov/lead>, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your healthcare provider.