



# PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## FACILITIES

### **A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF** **Washington Children's Center** **September 25, 2017**

Safe and healthy school environments foster healthy and successful children. To protect the health of children, in January 2017, the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) began requiring California water agencies to provide assistance with sampling a school's drinking water system to test for lead. If lead is found at water outlets at detectable levels set by state and federal regulations, the school is required to take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

The City of Pasadena Pasadena Water & Power (PWP) provides water to the Pasadena Unified School District's (PUSD) Washington Children's Center.

Water samples from four water sources at the Washington Children's Center were tested. PWP has informed us that low lead levels were detected in a drinking fountain located on the playground. Following protocol, district staff immediately closed the water fountain and provided bottled water to the campus. Water to the affected sources will remain closed until the source of lead is identified and corrected. Once test results return to safe levels as required by state and federal regulations, PUSD will reopen water sources as soon as possible.

PUSD will not take any chances when it comes to protecting children in our schools, and we will take any precaution necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff in our schools.

For information on PUSD's drinking water sampling plan, visit <https://www.pusd.us/Domain/56>  
For information on Pasadena Water & Power's lead testing program, visit <http://www.cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower/leadtesting/>

Below are some frequently asked questions about lead in drinking water:

#### **Where can parents access information about the effects of lead?**

The City of Pasadena's Public Health Department has a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program with excellent resources about lead, prevention, and health impacts. The Pasadena Public Health Department can be contacted at 626-744-6171 or online at <http://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/child-and-maternal-health/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention/>

The County of Los Angeles Public Health Department also has a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The LA County Health Education Services can be contacted at 1 (800) 524-5323 or online at <http://lapublichealth.org/lead>.

**What are the environmental sources of lead exposure for children?**

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 3Ts (Training, Testing, and Telling) Program for Schools, the most common source of lead exposure for children is chips and particles of deteriorated lead paint, especially if they are exposed to house dust or soil contaminated by leaded paint. Other potential sources include lead in the air from industrial emissions, lead deposits in soils near streets from past emissions by automobiles using leaded gas, and lead in consumer products and food, such as imported candies, medicines, dishes, toys, jewelry, and plastics.

**Where does lead in drinking water come from?**

According to the U.S. EPA's 3Ts (Training, Testing, and Telling) Program for Schools: "Most lead gets into drinking water after the water leaves the local well or treatment plant and comes into contact with plumbing materials containing lead. These include lead pipe and lead solder (commonly used until 1986) as well as faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. The physical/chemical interaction that occurs between the water and plumbing is referred to as corrosion. The extent to which corrosion occurs contributes to the amount of lead that can be released into the drinking water."

Sincerely,



Nelson M. Cayabyab,  
Chief Facilities Officer