



July 19, 2016

Dear Columbus families,

In light of national events that have brought increased attention to the issue of water quality, the City of Chicago announced several additional precautionary measures that will be added to the City's water testing protocol, continuing the City's track record of complying with current state and federal regulations as well as exceeding industry standards.

As part of this announcement, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) began testing the water for levels of lead from all schools across the district. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff, and this testing was initiated out of an abundance of caution to ensure the water in our schools is safe. Schools are being tested based on a priority criteria that includes the age of the school, age of the students (with priority given to schools with pre-K programs), presence of a kitchen (where meals are prepared) and presence of pipes that could need repairs or replacement.

The results of all the schools are coming in on a rolling basis, and the majority have had levels under the EPA's action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). At Columbus samples were tested from nine sites and the water sampled from one fountain was above the action level of 15 ppb: A fountain on the third floor read at 20.7 ppb. The water from the fountain has been turned off and remediation plans are being created.

Chicago's water supply is free of lead when it leaves the treatment plant. However, lead can be found in some interior plumbing fixtures and materials, and lead found in tap water usually comes from the corrosion of these items. This explains why only one of the samples at Columbus returned with elevated results – the issue is not system-wide, but is specific to the fixtures or pipes for that fountain and will be addressed through the remediation plan. The full results of every school's water samples can be found online at [cps.edu/leadtesting](http://cps.edu/leadtesting).

Federal guidance indicates that children under the age of six are at the highest risk for harmful lead exposure, and they can be exposed to lead from a variety of sources, including paint, soil and even some consumer products. If you are concerned about your child's possible lead exposure risks, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends going to your pediatrician or one of the local health care providers listed in the attachment for testing. Additionally, CDPH's lead hotline can address any health related questions you may have or help you in deciding whether to have your child tested; for questions or more information, please call 312-747-5323. For additional information about lead and children, visit [www.cdc.gov/lead](http://www.cdc.gov/lead).

The safety of your children is our highest priority, and we are doing everything in our power to address this situation in a quick and thorough manner. We will continue to keep you and your family informed throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Forrest Claypool  
CEO, Chicago Public Schools

Dr. Julie Morita  
Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health



19 de julio de 2016

Estimadas familias de la escuela Columbus,

Ante los eventos nacionales que han incrementado la atención en el tema de la calidad del agua, la Alcaldía de Chicago anunció varias medidas adicionales de precaución que serán agregadas al protocolo de prueba del agua de la ciudad, continuando con el cumplimiento de las regulaciones estatales y federales, que exceden los estándares industriales.

Como parte de este anuncio, las Escuelas Públicas de Chicago (CPS) comenzaron a medir los niveles de plomo en el agua de todas las escuelas del distrito. Nuestra principal prioridad es la salud y seguridad de todos nuestros estudiantes y personal, y estas pruebas fueron iniciadas solamente para extremar las precauciones y estar seguros de que el agua es segura. Las escuelas son examinadas con base a un criterio de prioridad que incluye la antigüedad del edificio, edad de los estudiantes (con prioridad para las escuelas con programas preescolares), presencia de una cocina (donde se preparan alimentos) y la presencia de cañerías que necesiten reparación o reemplazo.

Los resultados de todas las escuelas se están conociendo, y la mayoría ha registrado niveles por debajo del nivel de acción de la EPA, que es de 15 partículas por billón (ppb). En Columbus se tomaron muestras en 9 lugares y el agua de un bebedero tenía rastros de plomo por encima del nivel de acción de 15 ppb: un bebedero del tercer piso registró 20.7 ppb. El suministro de agua del bebedero fue interrumpido y se están creando planes para remediar la situación.

El agua de Chicago no tiene plomo cuando sale de la planta de tratamiento. Sin embargo, el plomo se puede encontrar en algunas cañerías internas y materiales, y el plomo encontrado en el agua potable es provocado usualmente por la corrosión de las cañerías. Esto explica por qué solamente una de las muestras de Columbus registró un nivel elevado, un tema que no es general sino específico de la cañería del bebedero, que será abordado en el plan de remediación. Los resultados completos del agua de cada escuela se pueden ver en línea en [cps.edu/leadtesting](http://cps.edu/leadtesting).

Los lineamientos federales indican que los niños menores de seis años son los que corren mayores riesgos con la exposición al plomo, algo que puede ocurrir de varias fuentes, incluyendo pintura, tierra y algunos productos de consumo. Si están preocupados por la posible exposición de su hijo al plomo, el Departamento de Salud Pública de la ciudad de Chicago (CDPH) recomienda visitar a su pediatra o a alguno de los centros de salud listados en el material adjunto, para una prueba. Además, la línea directa del CDPH puede responder cualquier pregunta que tengan, o ayudarlos a decidir si su niño debe ser examinado; por preguntas o más información, llame por favor al 312-747-5323. Por información adicional sobre el plomo y los niños, visite [www.cdc.gov/lead](http://www.cdc.gov/lead).

La seguridad de sus hijos es nuestra principal prioridad, y hacemos todo lo que está en nuestro poder para resolver esta situación de una manera rápida y rigurosa. Continuaremos informándoles sobre este proceso.

Atentamente,



Forrest Claypool  
CEO, Escuelas Públicas de Chicago



Dra. Julie Morita, Comisionada  
Departamento de Salud Pública de Chicago



## School Lead Water Testing - Data Collection Form

School Name

Columbus

Sample ID #	Sample Location	Sample Collection Time & Date	Test Result (ppb)	Test Results
51136-1-E-S01-001	Kitchen, Sink	6/16/16 5:15 AM	0.209	BA
51136-1-E-S01-002	Kitchen, Sink	6/16/16 5:16 AM	0.53	BA
51136-1-E-S01-003	Kitchen, Sink	6/16/16 5:17 AM	0.557	BA
51136-1-E-S01-004	Kitchen, Sink	6/16/16 5:18 AM	0.492	BA
51136-1-E-S01-005	Kitchen, Sink	6/16/16 5:19 AM	0.509	BA
51136-1-E-S02-001	Inside Kindergarten Room 101, Sink	6/16/16 5:20 AM	1.69	BA
51136-1-E-S02-002	Inside Kindergarten Room 101, Sink	6/16/16 5:21 AM	0.812	BA
51136-1-E-S02-003	Inside Kindergarten Room 101, Sink	6/16/16 5:22 AM	0.761	BA
51136-1-E-S02-004	Inside Kindergarten Room 101, Sink	6/16/16 5:23 AM	0.645	BA
51136-1-E-S02-005	Inside Kindergarten Room 101, Sink	6/16/16 5:24 AM	0.685	BA
51136-1-E-F04-001	Across From Kitchen, Fountain	6/16/16 5:25 AM	0.882	BA
51136-1-E-F04-002	Across From Kitchen, Fountain	6/16/16 5:26 AM	0.416	BA
51136-1-E-F04-003	Across From Kitchen, Fountain	6/16/16 5:27 AM	0.591	BA
51136-1-E-F04-004	Across From Kitchen, Fountain	6/16/16 5:28 AM	0.675	BA
51136-1-E-F04-005	Across From Kitchen, Fountain	6/16/16 5:29 AM	0.765	BA
51136-1-W-S05-001	Inside Kindergarten Room 102, Sink	6/16/16 5:30 AM	2.33	BA
51136-1-W-S05-002	Inside Kindergarten Room 102, Sink	6/16/16 5:31 AM	0.881	BA
51136-1-W-S05-003	Inside Kindergarten Room 102, Sink	6/16/16 5:32 AM	0.696	BA
51136-1-W-S05-004	Inside Kindergarten Room 102, Sink	6/16/16 5:33 AM	0.633	BA
51136-1-W-S05-005	Inside Kindergarten Room 102, Sink	6/16/16 5:34 AM	0.669	BA
51136-1-W-S06-001	Cafeteria, Sink	6/16/16 5:35 AM	0.763	BA
51136-1-W-S06-002	Cafeteria, Sink	6/16/16 5:36 AM	0.176	BA
51136-1-W-S06-003	Cafeteria, Sink	6/16/16 5:37 AM	0.283	BA
51136-1-W-S06-004	Cafeteria, Sink	6/16/16 5:38 AM	0.287	BA
51136-1-W-S06-005	Cafeteria, Sink	6/16/16 5:39 AM	0.215	BA
51136-2-W-F01-001	Next To Room 202 (East), Fountain 1	6/16/16 5:40 AM	1.63	BA
51136-2-W-F01-002	Next To Room 202 (East), Fountain 1	6/16/16 5:41 AM	0.911	BA
51136-2-W-F01-003	Next To Room 202 (East), Fountain 1	6/16/16 5:42 AM	0.944	BA
51136-2-W-F01-004	Next To Room 202 (East), Fountain 1	6/16/16 5:43 AM	0.957	BA
51136-2-W-F01-005	Next To Room 202 (East), Fountain 1	6/16/16 5:44 AM	0.935	BA
51136-2-W-WC02-001	Next To Room 202 (West), Watercooler 2	6/16/16 5:45 AM	0.27	BA
51136-2-W-WC02-002	Next To Room 202 (West), Watercooler 2	6/16/16 5:46 AM	0.393	BA
51136-2-W-WC02-003	Next To Room 202 (West), Watercooler 2	6/16/16 5:47 AM	0.519	BA
51136-2-W-WC02-004	Next To Room 202 (West), Watercooler 2	6/16/16 5:48 AM	0.581	BA
51136-2-W-WC02-005	Next To Room 202 (West), Watercooler 2	6/16/16 5:49 AM	0.606	BA
51136-3-W-WC01-001	Next To Room 302 (East), Watercooler 1	6/16/16 5:50 AM	1.77	BA
51136-3-W-WC01-002	Next To Room 302 (East), Watercooler 1	6/16/16 5:51 AM	1.77	BA
51136-3-W-WC01-003	Next To Room 302 (East), Watercooler 1	6/16/16 5:52 AM	1.64	BA
51136-3-W-WC01-004	Next To Room 302 (East), Watercooler 1	6/16/16 5:53 AM	1.49	BA
51136-3-W-WC01-005	Next To Room 302 (East), Watercooler 1	6/16/16 5:54 AM	1.39	BA
51136-3-W-F02-001	Next To Room 302 (West), Fountain 2	6/16/16 5:55 AM	20.7	AA
51136-3-W-F02-002	Next To Room 302 (West), Fountain 2	6/16/16 5:56 AM	3.79	BA
51136-3-W-F02-003	Next To Room 302 (West), Fountain 2	6/16/16 5:57 AM	2.81	BA
51136-3-W-F02-004	Next To Room 302 (West), Fountain 2	6/16/16 5:58 AM	3.01	BA
51136-3-W-F02-005	Next To Room 302 (West), Fountain 2	6/16/16 5:59 AM	2.02	BA

EPA ACTION LEVEL FOR LEAD IS 15 ppb or 15 µg/L

### SPREADSHEET LEGEND

ND-Not Detected at the Reporting Limit

BA-Below EPA Action Level of 15 ppb

AA-Above EPA Action Level

Chicago Public Schools - Department of Facility Operations