

# **A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF**

*Hoosic Valley Central School District*

## **Lead Testing of School Drinking Water**

**December 12, 2025**

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that the district has identified as being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

### **What is “first draw” testing of school drinking water for lead?**

The “on-again, off-again” nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This “first draw” sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

### **What are the results of the first draw testing?**

On November 13, 2025, our District conducted water sampling at 65 potable outlets across our district buildings. Potable outlets are those used for drinking and cooking, such as kitchen prep sinks, water fountains, bottle fillers, and cooking sinks in the Home & Career rooms. These outlets were tested to ensure the safety and quality of the water provided to students and staff.

In accordance with NYSDOH guidelines, certain outlets, such as classroom sinks, bathroom sinks, art/science room sinks, and custodial closet slop sinks, are not considered potable and are therefore not for drinking. As required by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), we have developed a remedial action plan for these outlets. Additionally, approved signage reading “Handwashing Only” and “Non-Potable Water” has been posted at these locations, indicating that these outlets were not tested for drinking water and are only to be used for handwashing.

We would like to inform you that three water samples came back with results exceeding the NYSDOH action level. The samples were collected by Questar Health and Safety Specialists, following our District’s 2025 Lead Water Sampling Plan. However, the remaining 62 samples did not exceed the action level.

All of the test results will be available on the District's website within the NYSDOH-required six-week timeframe. We are committed to maintaining a safe environment for our students and staff and will continue to work diligently to address these concerns.

<i>Date/Time Collected</i>	<i>Building</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Sample ID</i>	<i>Outlet Description</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>NYSDOH Action Level</i>	<i>Units</i>
11/13/25 06:01 AM	Elementary School	Room 5	5-WF	Water Fountain	25.3	5	ug/L
11/13/25 06:09 AM	Elementary School	Room 51	51-WF	Water Fountain	8.4	5	ug/L
11/13/25 06:18 AM	Elementary School	Room 58	58-WF	Water Fountain	5.1	5	ug/L

### **What is being done in response to the results?**

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) were removed from service until further remediation and testing is completed.

### **What are the health effects of lead?**

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposure as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

### **What are the other sources of lead exposure?**

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building's plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

### **Should your child be tested for lead?**

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors, including but not limited to, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil, and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

## **Additional Resources**

**For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results,**  
Contact the Superintendent's office

**For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:**

[https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead\\_testing\\_of\\_school\\_drinking\\_water.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm)

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

**For information about NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program,**  
go to: <http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

**For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":**

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (English)

[https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education\\_materials/index.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education_materials/index.htm) (available in ten languages).