



February 27, 2017

To the Students, Families, and Staff of Minuteman High School:

To safeguard the health of our students, faculty and staff, Minuteman High School is taking part in a voluntary state program known as the Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water. During mid-January, a representative from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) spent several days collecting samples at 108 water taps both at the school and on property owned by the school district.

These samples were analyzed for lead and copper. While none of the samples exceeded the acceptable limits for copper, 12 of the samples were found to exceed the Massachusetts Action Level for lead. The Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water is 15 micrograms per liter (also known as parts per billion).

These results were neither alarming nor surprising. We have an old building, with an old piping system. And we were able to quickly address all 12 areas of potential concern.

In this letter, I want to explain exactly what we have done.

We purchase our water through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the MWRA tests its water regularly, so we are confident that lead is **not in our water source**. However, plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain lead, resulting in an increase in the lead content in tap water. Exposure to lead is a concern because lead is a toxic metal that has a range of adverse health effects.

What We Are Doing

To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals (including woman who are pregnant or nursing), our school is working closely and cooperatively with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). We are taking the following specific actions:

1. We have removed from service all taps with lead levels over the Action Level. This includes a water fountain in Advanced Manufacturing, a two-bay sink in the kitchen, two bubblers in Early Education & Care, and a drinking fountain in the hallway between the Superintendent's office and Business office. (Note: Most of these taps had rarely been used as sources of drinking water.)
2. We have posted "Hand Washing Only" signs at two sinks in Special Education (Room 3S10), three sinks in Health Occupations (Rooms 3522 and 3523), and one sink in a Minuteman building used by the Tremont School (Room 132).

3. While exceeding the Action Level does not require provision of alternative drinking water sources, we have placed additional bottled water dispensers in several additional locations in the school building, including Health Occupations and the main foyer.
4. We have initiated a comprehensive flushing program before any use of a large steam kettle in the restaurant. (This kettle is used infrequently.) The kettle also will be re-tested before any further use.
5. We will maintain a regular sampling program to test outlets (faucets, water fountains, etc.) where students and staff get water for drinking, beverage preparation, and cooking.
6. Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead exposure from drinking water at our school.

We received the Final Analysis Report from the MWRA on February 16. The testing results will be posted on the MassDEP website, along with results from all other Massachusetts schools: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-copper-in-school-drinking-water-sampling-results.html>. We expect the Minuteman results to be posted within next two weeks.

A reminder: The water system at Minuteman High School is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. This is a problem that we have in many older public buildings in Massachusetts and, indeed, across our nation. (Fortunately, lead pipes are not allowed in new construction so we won't have this problem when we build our new school.)

In closing, if you have any questions about the test results or what we are doing to remediate elevated lead levels that were identified in any of the samples, please contact School Safety Officer Carol Brown at (781) 861-6500, ext. 6685 or ext. 1724 or Coordinator of Facilities Matthew MacLean at ext. 7306. They would be happy to talk with you.

Very truly,



Edward A. Bouquillon, Ph.D.
Superintendent