



November 8, 2024

Dear Parents and NYSSB Employees:

On September 6, 2016, Chapter 296 of the Laws of 2016, was signed into law adding section 1110 to Public Health Law (PHL §1110). The new law required all public-school districts and BOCES to test drinking water for lead and to take remedial action if lead exceeded the actionable threshold.

In 2022, revisions were made to PHL §1110 to reduce the lead action level from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. These revisions to the law also no longer allow for schools previously deemed to be "lead-free" to exempt from testing requirements. All buildings that house or provide instructional services to students are required to test for lead in drinking water and compliance testing is to take place triennially (every three years). NYSSB is committed to protecting student and staff health. Lead testing of our drinking water was conducted on October 29, 2024.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and day care facilities test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead.

Is Our School's Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our school's water is safe. NYSSB tested our drinking water for lead. Of the 109 water samples we tested, 58 showed lead levels above the 5-ppb mark. Out of the 58, only six (6) were in areas that could be used for drinking and/or cooking water. Of those six (6), **only three (3)** are used and have been shut down. The primary water sources above 5 ppb are in restrooms. Testing in 2021 required remediation for levels above 15 ppb which is why we are seeing these levels now.

There are adequate drinking water supply locations within the school, so these out-of-service locations do not affect the students/staff access to drinking water.

The faucet and inlet lines for these locations may be made of lead parts and water is not frequently drawn through these fixtures. Until it was banned in 1986, lead was often used in plumbing materials. The same action will be taken for each location used as a source of drinking water/cooking: remain out of service until fixtures can be replaced and a filter system can be added. Staff and students will be encouraged to always let the water run for 30 to 60 seconds before using and our maintenance department will be conducting weekly water line flushing every Sunday. All areas that should be used for handwashing only have always been posted with appropriate signage and we will post signs in braille for students. Employees will educate students on running the water prior to using and checking for signs in braille.

How Can I Learn More?

The school's water testing results will be made available on December 6, 2024, on the [New York State School for the Blind's website](#). A REMIND notification will be sent to staff and families for all follow up testing. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or State drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Simpson

Jacqueline Simpson
Superintendent

Sample ID #	Location	Type of Fixture
D219	UKH Bathroom	Hand washing station
D215	UKH Bathroom	Hand washing station
D216	UKH Bathroom	Hand washing station
D223	Staff Bathroom	Hand washing station
D226	HC Clinic 2	Hand washing station
D227	HC Clinic 2	Hand washing station
D247B	HC Clinic I	Hand washing station
D248	HC Clinic 1	Hand washing station
D256	Apt Bathroom	Hand washing station
D258	Apt Bathroom	Hand washing station
D265	UKH Conference Rm Bathroom	Hand washing station
LKHI	LKH Rec Room	Hand washing station
LKH3	LKH Bathroom	Hand washing station
LKH4	LKH Bathroom	Hand washing station
LKH6	LKH Common area	Hand washing station
LKH7	LKH Common area	Hand washing station
LKHS	LKH Common area	Hand washing station
LKH9	LKH Common area	Hand washing station
C108	BCV Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI 12	BCV Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI 16	BCV Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI20	BCV Bathroom	Hand washing station
C124	BCV Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI26	SC Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI27	SC Kitchen	Kitchen
CI30	SC Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI36	SC Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI37	SC Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI43	SC Staff Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI47	SC Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI48	SC Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI54	SC Bathroom	Hand washing station
C158	SC Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI62	RE Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI66	RE Bathroom	Hand washing station
C170	RE Bathroom	Hand washing station
CI74	RE Bathroom	Hand \washing station
CI78	RE Bathroom	Hand washing station
AWIII	Closed Office Space	Hand washing station
Kitchen-SK	Steam Kettle Spout	Kitchen Steam Kettle
Kitchen-Pr	Prep Area sink	Prep Sink: water shut off since 2016
Kitchen-Co	Kitchen	Comp Sink
AB48	Laundry	Sink for laundry
813 I	Spencer's Port Kitchen	Kitchen sink: water has been shut off since 2020
B107	Girls Locker Room: Left and Right Sinks	Hand washing station: water has not been used since pool closure
B115	Boys Locker Room: Left and Right Sinks	Hand washing station: water has not been used since pool closure

Sample ID #	Location	Type of Fixture
M2	Maintenance Bathroom	Hand washing station
M3	Maintenance Bathroom	Hand washing station
PLJ06L	PL Women's Bathroom	Hand washing station
PLI 79	PL Bathroom	Hand washing station
PL140	PL Office Bathroom	Hand washing station
PLI35	PL Bathroom Left	Hand washing station
PLB2t	PL Bathroom	Hand washing station
PLB2	PL Bathroom	Hand washing station
AB53 Hall	Hall Drinking Fountain	Drinking fountain
DIOS	Lower Knight Hall (LKH) common area	Hand washing station: all LKH has been out of service for over 4 years
Dt06	LKH Kitchen	Kitchen area: out of service for over 4 years
DI 10	LKH Bathroom	Hand washing station: out of service for over 4 years
DI 15	LKH Bathroom	Hand washing station: out of service for over 4 years
D12t	LKH Bathroom	Hand washing station: out of service for over 4 years
DI23	LKH Staff Bathroom	Hand washing station: out of service for over 4 years
DI6t	LKH Rec Room	Hand washing station
DI 16	LKH Bathroom	Hand washing station: out of service for over 4 years