



**WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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### Testing of Lead in Drinking Water

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community the Wall Township Public Schools tests drinking water for lead at all District schools once every year. Results of previous tests are on the Operations subpage of the website. We will be testing again on April 11, 2017.

#### 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 20 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead.

#### Health Effects of Lead

The EPA has determined that lead in drinking water is a health concern at certain levels of exposure. Lead is found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery porcelain and pewter, and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that will not hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination - like dirt and dust - that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

The Wall Township Public Schools developed the *Quality Assurance Project Plan* and *Lead Sampling Plan* to outline how the District will comply with the EPA's guidelines on testing drinking water for lead. Results of lead tests will be posted on the Operations subpage of the website. Plans and test results are also available on the Operations subpage.