

THIS IS A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STAFF

October 11, 2017

Neoga Community Unit School District #3

790 East 7th Street, Neoga, Illinois 62447

Benjamin Johnson
Superintendent

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

In accordance with Illinois Senate Bill 550, which requires lead testing in education facilities and daycare centers, on 9/23/17, Neoga Community Unit Schools #3 took 82 samples from 41 outlets around the district. Two samples were taken from each outlet: a “first draw” sample consisting of water that had laid stagnate in the lines for between 8-18 hours and a second “flush” sample that was collected subsequent to the lines had been flushed for 30 seconds after the first sample was collected. Samples were sent to an EPA-Accredited laboratory for analytical testing. EPA Method 200.8 “Lead in Drinking Water” was performed on all samples. The first draw and flush samples are differentiated in the below tables by a “1” and a “2” respectively after the “AX” designation. Illini Environmental Solutions performed the sampling required.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) mandates testing in schools built before 1987 occupied by children from preschool to the fifth grade. This mandate would only require testing of our Early Childhood Center. However, Neoga CUSD #3 believes it is important to take a proactive approach to ensure safe and healthy drinking water in every building within the district. Each building’s individual results above 5 ppb are listed in this memo. The Neoga Elementary School did not have any outlets that tested above 5 ppb in lead concentration.

The most common source of lead contamination in drinking water is due to the corrosion of lead-containing solder, fixtures and pipes within a building’s plumbing system. This corrosion occurs when the water has low pH or is acidic, and/or when the water has a low mineral content.

The EPA’s website on Basic Information on Lead in Drinking Water can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

The results and locations of outlets over 5 parts per billion:

Jr./Sr. High School:

| Sample Identification | Location Description | Pb Concentration in parts per billion |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| A1-2 | Most west fountain in main entrance corridor outside restroom | 259.00 |
| A3-1 | Fountain in corridor south of library on back side of restroom wall | 31.40 |
| A3-2 | Fountain in corridor south of library on back side of restroom wall | 589.00 |
| A4-1 | Fountain in corridor north of library | 8.40 |
| A4-2 | Fountain in corridor north of library | 58.10 |
| A6-2 | Fountain in Office | 30.40 |
| A7-1 | Kitchen Sink | 11.40 |
| A8-1 | Drinking Fountain Outside FACS Room | 6.60 |
| A8-2 | Drinking Fountain Outside FACS Room | 7.30 |
| A9-1 | FACS Far East Sink | 41.50 |
| A10-1 | FACS Center East Sink | 31.90 |
| A10-2 | FACS Center East Sink | 547.00 |
| A11-1 | FACS Center West Sink | 78.80 |
| A11-2 | FACS Center West Sink | 10.30 |
| A12-1 | FACS Far West Sink | 174.00 |
| A12-2 | FACS Far West Sink | 30.60 |
| A14-2 | Fountain Northeast of South Gym | 5.80 |

Neoga Early Childhood Center

| | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| A33-1 | Kitchen Sink on West wall | 73.10 |
| A34-1 | West Kitchen sink on south wall | 5.80 |
| A40-1 | Sink in most northeast classroom | 9.70 |

These test results will likely generate questions from parents, guardians, and the public about steps the school is taking to address lead in water. Establishment of a water management plan, including identification of lead-containing plumbing, scheduled flushing, fixture replacement, and monitoring is the best course of action for schools addressing positive lead test results.

Additional guidance for interim (short-term) and permanent lead control measures is provided in the USEPA 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools. This document can be found at:

www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/201509/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf

Upon receiving the test results from Pace Analytical on October 10, 2017, Neoga Community Unit Schools have taken immediate action by decommissioning fountains at the jr.-sr. high school until new fountains with filters can be installed.

The three sinks identified at the early childhood center are not used by the students for potable water, but will have filters installed or will be decommissioned.

I would like to note that we decided as a District to test the other water sources that were not required to be tested, such as the elementary school and jr.-sr. high school. The results from those tests are also included in this letter. I can reassure you that we will be correcting areas of issue in the jr.-sr. high school in the next couple weeks. We feel our responsibility is for all students, not just the Pre-K through 5th grade students in the Neoga School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Benjamin Johnson
Neoga Community Unit Schools #3 Superintendent