

June 2, 2017

Dear Matheny Community:

As you know Matheny is committed to protecting the health of those we serve, our staff and other stakeholders. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Matheny began testing our school's drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Matheny has implemented immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 ug/1 (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet, providing an alternate water source, and leaving the outlet off until re-sampling shows results below the action level.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within Matheny's main campus. Through this effort, we identified and tested drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 77 samples taken, the majority tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 ug/1 [ppb]).

The table below identifies the nine drinking water outlets and entry port that tested above the 15 µg/1 for lead on a P^t-Draw sample, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

Sample Location	Results (ug/1 or ppb)	Remedial Action
Green Zone DW Rm 262-7	15.3ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.
Green Zone DW Rm 258-12	16.8ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.
Green Zone DW Rm 261-14	15.7ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.
Green Zone DW Rm 255-16	16.6ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.

Green Zone DW Rm 214-27	18.3ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.
Orange Zone Nurses Station DW #1 Rm 308-37	17.9ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.
Yellow Zone DW Rm 343/345-59	22.0ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.
OT/PT – Bath Sink-DW-69	20.9ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.
CAFÉ SK-IM-JM-73 (Staff Juice Machine)	30.7ug/L	Point of use, Lead removal carbon filters.
POE Basement	818ug/L	Not a drinking source, POE Test Port. Will investigate replacement of pipe, etc. Point of use, filters at all locations listed

All of the nine water outlets identified have been removed from service and will be removed from service until filters have been successfully installed.

Health Effects of 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 of age. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. 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. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass

faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the full test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and will be also available on our website at www.Matheny.org. For more information about water quality in our school, contact Victor Laggini, 908-234-0011 ext. 725.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider. Information can also be obtained from <http://www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/lead> or <http://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead>.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at Matheny or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children or yourself to determine levels of lead in the blood. Individual employees concerned about the findings may wish to reach out to our employee health nurse at ext. 224. Parents may wish also to reach out the School Nurse at 908-234-0011 extension 217. Once again, we are committed to the safety of our community and will update the community as necessary.

Sincerely,



Kendell R. Spratt, M.D., J.D.
Matheny President and CEO
Executive Director of the Matheny School