

# Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District

1824 Dr. Dennis Foreman Drive, Mays Landing, NJ 08330-2640

Office of the School Business Administrator

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**Absegami High School**  
201 S. Wrangleboro Road  
Galloway, NJ 08205



**Cedar Creek High School**  
1701 New York Avenue  
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215



**Oakcrest High School**  
1824 Dr. Dennis Foreman Dr.  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

July 7, 2017

Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District  
Absegami High School  
201 S. Wrangleboro Road  
Galloway Township, NJ 08205

Dear Absegami High School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15.5 ug/l (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted.

## Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District contracted with South Jersey Water Test, LLC of Williamstown, NJ to conduct the mandated State lead testing of water outlets of schools in our district. These tested outlets included water fountains, bottle filling stations, sinks and ice machines throughout the district. Water samples were taken 6/4/17, we received the results and posted at the schools and on the district website. Of the 95 samples taken at Absegami High School, all but 10 tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15.5 ug/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15.5 ug/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

<b>Sample Location</b>	<b>First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)</b>	<b>Remedial Action</b>
Room 304 Sink AHS-41	51.4	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Room 310 Sink AHS-42	16.0	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Room 514 Sink AHS-56	30.0	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Room 514 Sink AHS-57	35.2	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Room F-3 Sink AHS-63	44.0	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Room 606 Sink / Fountain AHS-70	15.7	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Room 607 Sink / Fountain AHS-72	20.4	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Room 602 Sink / Fountain AHS-74	19.6	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Room 703 Sink AHS-75	18.6	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"
Field House Sink AHS-78	54.0	Water has been turned off and Posted signage "DO NOT DRINK- SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY"

These results are reflective of the first round of testing, which is a standing water test. All taps were shut down from use for 8 hours or more prior to drawing an immediate sample upon reopening of the tap. This will often lead to higher test results. These taps have been shut down until a second round of testing on the above listed taps is completed.

The EPA's protocol with any outlet that tests lead at or above the 15.5ppb is to proceed with a flush sample, which we have planned and a follow up report will be shared when this action is completed.

### 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 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 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and are also available on our website at

gehrrsd.net. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Jerry Finkle, the Building & Grounds Supervisor at 609-625-8641.

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](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Grossi  
School Business Administrator