



Northumberland Elementary School

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Mrs. Stephanie Baker, Principal

Mr. Lance Reynolds, Assistant Principal

April 13, 2018

Dear Parents & Families of Northumberland Elementary School (NES):

I wanted to follow up with you in reference to the water testing results at NES. On March 1, 2018, Division Superintendent Holly Wargo shared information regarding elevated levels of lead found during testing of fourteen (14) out of the 136 sites tested at NES. The fourteen (14) sinks of concern immediately were shut off and remain shut off while repairs and reconstruction are completed.

New guidance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) requires mandatory lead water testing of potable water in public schools based on Senate Bill 1359 which amended the *Code of Virginia* by adding section 22.1-135.1 (See attached). Potable water is distinguished from other water by set standards that ensure it is safe to drink.

At this time, the NCPS Facilities & Building Maintenance staff have replaced soldering and piping under each of the fourteen (14) sinks of concern. Affected sinks include one (1) handwashing sink, eleven (11) restroom sinks, and two (2) classroom sinks. **It is important to note water sources used for cooking and all water fountains showed normal ranges.**

Director of Facilities & Building Maintenance Cris Kallenberger, under consultation by Master Plumber Richard Haynie and Sanitary District Supervisor David Woolard, is analyzing the increased lead levels and taking recommended next steps.

Beginning today and for the next several weeks, Mr. Kallenberger and his staff will replace the faucets and conduct new water testing to determine if lead levels report in acceptable ranges (below 15 - 20 parts per billion). The water supply at the fourteen (14) sites of concern will remain shut off until consistent test results indicate the lead concern has been resolved.

Please be assured we always will take every necessary precaution and action to safeguard the health of our students, teachers, and staff. I will keep you informed throughout the process. Feel free to contact me or our Division Superintendent Holly Wargo if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Baker
Principal

Superintendent's Memo #171-17



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: June 9, 2017
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Mandatory Water Testing in Public Schools**

This memorandum is to inform school divisions that the 2017 General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 1359 requiring school divisions to conduct lead testing of potable water to ensure that schools have a safe, clean water supply for consumption by students and staff. This legislation also requires local school boards to give priority to testing in schools that were built, in whole or in part, before 1986. This testing requirement is effective July 1, 2017, and local school boards must develop a schedule for water testing and a plan for remediation as needed.

Senate Bill 1359 amends the *Code of Virginia* by adding a section numbered 22.1-135.1 as follows:

22.1-135.1. Potable water: lead testing

Each local school board shall develop and implement a plan to test and, if necessary, remediate potable water from sources identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as high priority for testing, including bubbler-style and cooler-style drinking fountains, cafeteria or kitchen taps, classroom combination sinks and drinking fountains, and sinks known to be or visibly used for consumption. The local school board shall give priority in the testing plan to schools whose school building was constructed, in whole or in part, before 1986.

In conducting water testing, school divisions should utilize a laboratory that is certified by the Department of General Services' Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services. A list of certified laboratories is available on the Department of General Services website at:

<https://dgs.virginia.gov/division-of-consolidated-laboratory-services/laboratory-services/drinking-water-labs/>

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If you need additional information, please contact Vijay Ramnarain, Director of Support Services, at Vijay.Ramnarain@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2037, or Hunter Barnes at Hunter.Barnes@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2035.

SRS/aam