

Updated Analysis of Drinking Water Samples Montgomery County Public Schools

The following are the current results of the continuing analysis of drinking water taken from a sample of public schools in Montgomery County. As results are released by the Montgomery County Health Department, this list will be updated. Twenty schools are being tested as part of the initial sample, and schools are being tested on a schedule of two schools a day (due to limitations in the laboratory capacity for water analysis).

The inquiry into elevated levels of lead in school water is overseen by the county health officer, Dr. Ulder J. Tillman, M.D., M.P.H. She is working closely with school officials and leaders of the Montgomery County Government, municipal water authorities, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).

The water samples at individual schools were collected by school system staff, using protocols recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The samples were analyzed at the lab facilities of WSSC. The action level standard is a water sample in which the level of lead content is greater than 20 parts per billion (ppb).*

Maryvale Elementary School: Of 76 samples, elevated levels of lead were found in nine samples. The highest concentration in one sample was 207 ppb.

Gaithersburg Elementary School: Of 90 samples, elevated levels of lead were found in 18 samples. The highest concentration in one sample was 81.5 ppb.

South Lake Elementary School: Of the 57 samples, elevated levels of lead were found in eight samples. The highest concentration in one sample was 70.4 ppb.

Flower Hill Elementary School: Of the 95 samples taken, elevated levels of lead were found in 14 samples. The highest concentration in one sample was 145.5 ppb.

Takoma Park Elementary School: Of the 84 samples taken, elevated levels of lead were found in nine samples. The highest concentration in one sample was 165.8 ppb.

** Note: According to the county health department, 80 to 90 percent of the drinking water sources in the tested schools were below the action level standard of 20 ppb set by the EPA. Nonetheless, water flushing and other precautionary measures for all drinking water sources will continue in every school until further testing and remediation efforts are completed.*