

Osage County R-1 School

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LYLE BEST

Superintendent

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Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Re: Results of Drinking Water for Lead

Dear Osage Co. R-I community:

Osage Co. R-I has completed required water testing to determine the presence of lead in drinking water in schools and child care facilities with the intent to reduce overall childhood lead exposure. Lead is a toxic heavy metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed, and is particularly dangerous for children. No safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Even low blood lead levels in children are associated with poor academic achievement and higher rates of neurobehavioral disorders such as hyperactivity and attention deficits. Because the developmental effects of lead toxicity may be permanent, prevention of lead exposure is key to assuring our children have the best chance at success.

Testing drinking water for lead is important to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our children to learn and play. Children can be protected from lead by reducing or eliminating dangerous lead sources before exposure. Materials, like pipes and fixtures may contain lead and can corrode over time releasing lead into the water supply. Testing is the only way to confirm the level of lead in our drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a lead in drinking water level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). Lead levels in drinking water at or above this standard are considered elevated and require action be taken. Revised Statutes of Missouri 701.200, requires schools that perform lead testing to notify the public of the results of that testing.

In September 2023 samples were collected from 5 fixtures (High School) and tested for the presence of lead following the protocols described in the EPA's 3Ts guidance [EPA 3T](#). The samples were submitted to Keystone Laboratories.

 2 Samples tested below 5 ppb

 1 Samples tested between 5 ppb and 14.9 ppb

 2 Samples tested at 15 ppb or more

Samples above 5 ppb will be sampled again to help identify the cause of elevated lead levels. A remediation plan will be implemented (replacing fixtures, adding a filter, etc). In the meantime, water from those sources will not be used for drinking or preparing food. The three locations are not primary uses of drinking water. All of the water fountains tested below 5 ppb.

A copy of the lead in water test results will also be posted [on the district website](#). For more information about lead in water testing at our facility, please reach out to the district office at 573-763-5666.

Water is not the only source of lead that can poison our children. To learn more about the dangers of lead poisoning in your home, visit the DHSS website: <https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/lead/index.php>

Sincerely,

Lyle Best,
Superintendent