



South Washington County Schools

Keith Jacobus, Ph.D., Superintendent

District Service Center

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Members of the School Board
Keith Jacobus, Superintendent

FROM: Damien Nelson – Emergency Preparedness and Safety Coordinator

DATE: June 1, 2018

TOPIC/PURPOSE OF REPORT: Update to District 833 - Lead and Water Testing Plan

REFERENCE TO POLICY/STRATEGIC PLAN: MN Statute 121A.335

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION: Review for School Board Acknowledgement

DATE FOR BOARD ACTION: Tuesday June 21, 2018

REPORT

In 2017, legislation passed requiring school districts and charter schools to test for the presence of lead in water. For guidance, please reference: [Minnesota Statutes, 121A.335 Lead in School Drinking Water](#).

It requires schools to adopt a plan to accurately and efficiently test for lead in public school buildings serving students from prekindergarten through grade 12. The MDH and MDE have identified 3 requirements in the development and adoption of either a model plan template or an alternative plan .

By July 1, 2018 public school districts and charter schools must complete the following:

1. Adopt the model plan developed by MDH and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) or develop and adopt an alternative plan. The District has developed an alternative plan that will meet the requirements specifics of the Department of Education for sections 2 and 3 below.
2. Include a testing schedule for all buildings serving prekindergarten students and students in kindergarten through grade 12. Each drinking water tap or water source used in food preparation must be tested at minimum once every five years. Testing must begin by July 1, 2018, and complete testing of all buildings that serve students must be within five years. District 833 has decided it will be testing the district every 3 years vs. the recommended 5 years.
3. Make the test results available to the public to review and notify the parents of the availability of the information. As we did following the full district water testing between Nov 2016 and Jan 2017, we will continue to post the results on the district website to be available to any community member for each of our buildings.



South Washington County Public Schools

Lead in Water Program – June 2018

Contents

Section 1: Changes/Additions/Review Form

Section 2: Lead in Water Program

Section 3: Testing Results

Appendices:

- Minnesota Statute 121A.335
- Minnesota Department of Health Guidance Documents

Contact Person: Emergency Preparedness and Safety Manager

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Purpose

This program for Lead-in-Water was developed to reduce the potential for exposure to lead in water and to comply with Minnesota Statute 121A.335, Lead in School Drinking Water.

Background

Lead is a heavy metal that usually enters water through distribution systems, including pipes, solder, fixtures, and valves. When ingested, it can interfere with brain development and lead to other health problems, especially in young children. Lead levels may increase when water sits undisturbed in plumbing systems. South Washington County Schools has developed a routine testing program intended to identify the presence of lead in water, and to reduce levels of lead to no more than the action level of 20 parts per billion, as published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This program consists of periodic testing, following the protocol established by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education.

Water Testing

Schools in Minnesota are required to test all potable water sources for lead every five years. District 833 elected to increase the frequency of the sampling and testing from the required 5 years to every 3 years. In creating our own plan, we will still meet all requirements established by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education, and it consists of three main components:

1.) Sampling Strategy. The sampling strategy is subdivided into several components:

- Selection of drinking water taps for sampling. A drinking water faucet or tap is the point of access for people to obtain water for drinking or food preparation. A faucet or tap can be a fixture, faucet, drinking fountain, or water cooler. Drinking water fixtures do not typically include bathroom taps, hose bibs, laboratory faucets, kitchen hand washing sinks, custodial sinks, or other taps that are not meant for drinking. When possible, the district has been installing water fountain fill stations specifically designed for bottles, which eliminates the need to use sinks that may not be meant for drinking water or to fill tall bottles and containers.
- Sampling schedule. South Washington County Schools tests all potable water sources at least once every 3 years, exceeding the Minnesota statute requiring 5 year interval testing.
- Analysis by an accredited laboratory. The district uses the analytical services of third-party, nationally-accredited laboratories only, and maintains the proper chain-of-custody procedures established by those laboratories.

2.) Sampling Method. The district uses the “first draw” sampling method for cold water taps established by the Minnesota Department of Health, which follows this procedure:

- Taps are not used for at least 6 hours, and no more than 18 hours, before sampling. This gives the water in the taps enough time to accumulate lead, if present, so that it can be identified in the sample.
- Aerators and other attachments are not removed.
- Samples are collected in a 250ml bottle, and samples are collected closest to where water enters the building so that no inadvertent flushing occurs.
- Samples are sent to or dropped-off at the accredited laboratory well before the sample expiration date.

3.) Communication of Results. Schools are required to make the results of testing available to the public for review, and must notify parents of the availability of the information. The purpose of this requirement

South Washington County Schools Lead-in-Water Program

is to provide a process for staff, students, and parents to address questions, report results, and provide ongoing, up-to-date information regarding sampling efforts. This notification is accomplished by posting a notice on the district's website, which is the Minnesota Department of Health's preferred method. Community members without internet access may request results by contacting the Emergency Preparedness and Safety Manager.

Remediation & Maintenance

A lead-in-water concentration of less than or equal to 20 parts-per-billion is the current standard considered acceptable by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Potable water sources found to have higher levels are retested, and if the level still exceeds 20 ppb, they are taken out of service or replaced.

In addition, it is recommended to flush potable water outlets following any two-week or longer break in school, particularly at the beginning of school each fall.

Recordkeeping

Water testing reports are available for review in the Emergency Preparedness and Safety Manager's office.