

# Water Sampling Results for DC Public Schools Frequently Asked Questions

## **How often are our water sources tested?**

Annually during each school year.

## **What is the process for water sampling?**

DGS hires a contractor (SaLUT, Inc., Washington, DC) who employs Industrial Hygienists (IH) that hold a Certified Drinking Water Sampler Certificate. The IH visits the school the day before collection to coordinate with the custodian for early morning entry and identification of drinking water devices. Water samples are collected on school days before building occupants arrive to ensure that the water system has not been used at least 8 hours prior to testing.

Two 250 milliliter (ml) samples are collected from each device and labeled. The samples along with a chain of custody are delivered to a third party lab (AMA Analysis Inc., Lanham, MD) for analysis with a five-day turnaround. If any result is over 15 parts per billion (ppb), the device is immediately turned off, and a work order is entered for a lead filter installation. After the lead filter is installed, the device is re-tested. If the result is less than 15 ppb, then the device is returned to service. If the device does not pass retesting, it is kept out of service until it is replaced with a new unit and retested.

Note: Non-working devices are identified and work orders are submitted for repairs. The drinking water device cannot be tested until repaired, and only once the device passes testing is it returned to service.

## **What types of water sources are tested?**

We test drinking water devices in hallways, classrooms, health suites, staff break rooms and kitchens.

## **What lead level is considered “actionable”?**

The EPA recommends a threshold of lead particles not to exceed 20 Parts Per Billion (PPB) in a 250 millimeter water sample for schools. In an abundance of caution, we've capped our threshold at no more than 15 PPB.

## **How does lead get into the water supply?**

Lead found in water usually comes from the corrosion of older fixtures or solder that connects pipes. A small lead concentration can appear randomly at an isolated fountain at any time. The concentration can come from several different sources and we address

this episodic problem by installing certified lead filters at affected drinking water fountains.

**What type of filters are used on our water fountains?**

Halsey Taylor HWF172 Watersentry VII (<http://www.halseytaylor.com/pdf/HWF172-Filter.pdf>)

**What do these filters treat?**

This filter has been tested to the following NSF International standards: NSF/ANSI Standards 42 Chlorine, Particulate, Taste, and Odor, and NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for Reduction of Lead.

**How often are the water filters replaced?**

Annually; sometimes more frequently due to plumbing repairs in the building or work on the domestic water supply by DC Water. Further, we proactively test fountains and replace filters on an ongoing annual basis, or when we are prompted to do so by test results.

**Where can I find the results for my child's school?**

<http://dgs.dc.gov/page/water-sampling-results-district-schools>

**Where can we find more information on lead in drinking water?**

The District Department of Energy & Environment, Lead-Safe and Healthy Homes Division <http://doee.dc.gov/leadsafehealthyhomes>

The United States Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>