



Steven Rioux, Superintendent of Schools
45 Westminster Road, Canterbury, CT 06331
Phone (860) 546-6950 Fax (860) 546-6423
srioux@canterburypublicschools.org

September 19, 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

We collect water samples from our schools to test lead and copper levels in the drinking water. The water at each school is provided from two wells at each location. Laframboise Well Drilling & Water Services has been servicing our systems for almost twenty years and providing expert advice when complications arise.

In September 2021, a water sample for lead and copper was taken from a closet and exceeded the allowable lead limit of 0.015 mg/L. This location was an abandoned custodial closet, which was not an approved water collection site. The water sample should have been collected from an adjacent men's bathroom,

https://www.canterburypublicschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CT0221122_DR-HELEN-BALDWIN-SCHOOL_CONSUMER-NOTICE_060121-093021.pdf. Notification regarding this water collection was sent to families on September 30, 2021, and an update was sent on October 6, 2021. It is possible that the failed test was a result of metals/solder leaching into the water from its inactive use.

As a result of the failed test, DHBM increased the number of water collection areas. We now collect samples from ten locations twice a year versus five locations once every three years. Per DPW guidelines, these collections are ranked high to low. Additional action is required if the 9th highest level exceeds the 0.015 mg/L limits.

In our three collections of ten water samples that were collected over the past 1.5 years, two additional locations exceeded the allowable limit. Over the summer, the teacher's lounge recorded 0.0174 mg/L,

https://www.canterburypublicschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CT0221122_DR-HELEN-BALDWIN-SCHOOL_CONSUMER-NOTICE_010122-063022-1-2.pdf.

The second site that exceeded the allowable limit was the former Home Economics classroom; the water collection registered 0.0202 mg/L,

https://www.canterburypublicschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CT0221122_DR-HELEN-BALDWIN-SCHOOL_CONSUMER-NOTICE_070122-123122-1.pdf, which was collected on August 23, 2022.

While all the other collection samples tested within the allowable limits and did not exceed the action level requirement, we are implementing a corrective action plan due to the cumulative exceedances. The plumbing of a DHBMS is aging, and the introduction of orthophosphate to the water system is a proven strategy to protect drinking water systems. Orthophosphate is a food-grade additive. Additional information on orthophosphate is posted on our website, <https://www.canterburypublicschools.org/district/facilities/>.

The Department of Public Health approved the modification of our water system, https://www.canterburypublicschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/20220719_CT0221122_O_CCT_Approval_to_Construct.pdf. Orthophosphate is certified to meet NSF/ANSI Standard 60 for use in drinking water.

Additionally, we will be increasing the water collection sites to fifteen, including all drinking fountains and the kitchen. We will provide regular updates on our website at www.canterburypublicschools.org. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

In Partnership,

Steve Rioux

Superintendent of Schools