



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

October 17, 2017

Dear Parents and Families:

The health and safety of your child is paramount to all of us at DC Public Schools (DCPS). To ensure the safety of our drinking water, the Department of General Services (DGS) conducts water testing in all DCPS buildings. Last school year, new filtration systems were installed on all drinking water sources and those sources were then tested for elevated levels of lead.

Per District of Columbia law, all drinking water sources must test below 5 ppb (parts per billion), which is the standard to which the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water.

For School Year 2017-2018, all filters will be replaced and DGS will conduct testing for elevated levels. To see the specific testing dates for your child's school, please visit <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/water-testing-lead>.

If a drinking water source tests above 5 ppb, it will be immediately removed from service while we communicate results to families and share how DGS is working to fix the issue. Per the District's Water Filtration and Testing Protocol, remediation can include placing new filters on the source, and in some instances, replacing faucets, connections, and other plumbing components. **A drinking water source will not be returned to operation until it is tested again and results show a reading below 5 ppb.**

Non-drinking water sources, such as sinks in bathrooms, classrooms, and utility closets, are safe for hand washing only. These sources are clearly labeled to instruct students not to drink water from them.

Please use the following websites as resources to learn more about lead, review the national standards for water safety in schools, and read through testing protocol, respectively:

- <http://doee.dc.gov/lead>
- <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-drinking-water-schools-and-child-care-facilities>
- <https://dgs.dc.gov/publication/water-filtration-testing-protocol>

If you have additional questions, please call (202) 442-5192 or email schooloperations.dcps@dc.gov. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Carla Watson
Chief Operating Officer, DC Public Schools