

PHILIPSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Together Everyone Achieves More!”

School Board

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Chris Cornelius, Head Maintenance
JB Chandler, Activities Director**

March 4, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The following correspondence is regarding our lead in school drinking water testing results. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) requires all accredited schools to reduce children’s exposure to lead from school drinking water by taking steps that include testing drinking water for lead; and taking appropriate and necessary actions to correct problems if necessary. Lead is a toxic heavy metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed. Children are especially susceptible to lead exposure because their bodies absorb the metal at higher rates than the average adult. Exposure to lead can cause reduced IQ, hearing impairment, reduced attention span and poor classroom performance. While the ultimate goal is for zero lead exposure, the action level in drinking water is currently set at 5 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.005 milligrams per liter (mg/L) as the threshold to implement remedial actions.

In compliance with the lead sampling program we have recently completed testing of all locations at which children obtain drinking water at the Philipsburg Public Schools. The results are placed into 3 bins or categories.

- Bin 3 – Results less than 0.005 milligrams per Liter (mg/L) – No action required
- Bin 2 – Results between 0.005 mg/L and 0.015 mg/L – Action required (remove, repair, replace, filter or routine flushing). Fixture can remain in service if routine flushing is performed until a permanent action is taken,
- Bin 1 – Results exceed 0.015 mg/L – Action required, Fixtures must be immediately removed from service until action completed.

THE RESULTS OF GRANITE HIGH SCHOOL:

Bin type	Number of fixtures	Action taken
Bin 1	8	Fixture have been immediately been taken out of service. Evaluating replacing vs permanent removal of fixtures
Bin 2	11	Fixture have been immediately been taken out of service. Evaluating replacing vs permanent removal of fixtures
Bin 3	21	No action required

THE RESULTS OF PHILIPSBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Bin type	Number of fixtures	Action taken
Bin 1	1	Fixture have been immediately been taken out of service. Evaluating replacing vs permanent removal of fixtures This sample was from Janitor Sink and is not used for drinking or food preparation.
Bin 2	2	Fixture have been immediately been taken out of service. Evaluating replacing vs permanent removal of fixtures
Bin 3	15	No action required

The results can be found on our webpage (<https://www.philipsburgschools.org>) and at Montana Department of Environmental Quality's webpage [Deq.mt.gov/Lead](http://deq.mt.gov/Lead)

Please note that the two highest exceedances in the High School were in sinks located in the janitor's closet and an unused classroom where students do not have access.

The school district is taking all necessary precautions to remedy the fixtures that have exceedances in lead and we are adhering to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's recommendations.

We are available to answer any questions and provide any additional information you may need. Please contact: Chris Cornelius, Head Maintenance at 406/859/3232/email corneliusc@pburg.k12.mt.us or Greg Montgomery (DEQ) Lead in School Drinking Water Rule Manager, MT DEQ, 406-444-5312, Gregory.Montgomery@mt.gov.

In addition, the state has additional background information and resources available at <http://deq.mt.gov/water/drinkingwater/LeadInSchools>.

Sincerely,



Kevin St. John, Sup't.

Home of the Prospectors