



523 Hope Road,
Lincolville, ME 04849
Telephone 207.763.3366
Paul Russo, Principal
www.fivetowns.net/lcs

May 2, 2022

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

This purpose of this letter is to review the results of a new "state-mandated" lead test taken at the Lincolville Central School. In along with this letter are the actual test results for each site that was sampled, the plan for remediation of the 2 sites that had lead higher than the recommended new State standard for lead, and two pages of educational material concerning lead in drinking water.

The Lincolville Central School (LCS) is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment. An integral part of this learning environment is the availability of safe drinking water.

LCS is a regulated drinking water system and as such is required by the Maine Drinking Water Program to test the school's drinking water for nearly a hundred regulated contaminants including bacteria, organic compounds, inorganic compounds such as arsenic, volatile organic compounds, and radionuclides such as radon on an on-going schedule. **All drinking water tests taken at the Lincolville Central School are well below the U.S.E.P.A. Standards and are deemed safe.**

The Maine Legislature now is requiring additional screening for the presence of lead in schools. The protocols for taking the new test and the safe level for lead are different from the lead testing which LCS has been doing on a regular basis for many years. The new mandated lead test requires a longer stationary period for water in the water pipes (8 hours) versus the U.S.E.P.A. stationary period of 6 hours, a smaller sample size (250 mL) vs the U.S.E.P.A. (1000 mL), and the State-mandated lead test result has a recommended threshold of 4 parts per billion (ppb) for safety, while the U.S.E.P.A. standard is 15 ppb.

The test results for all "state-mandated" lead tests are attached. Please note the all of the water bottle fill stations and the drinking fountains are well below both the State and Federal standards for lead.

It is important to note that the lead is not in the well (which is the source of the drinking water) but rather it is in the faucets and possibly also in the lead-based solder that holds the copper pipes together in the internal plumbing of the school. When water from the well sits in contact with the plumbing and faucets for long periods of time, lead can leach into the drinking water. After the water has been running for a few seconds, the pipes are purged with fresh water, and the levels of lead (and copper) fall dramatically to negligible levels. This is an important fact, because even in your own dwelling, if it is served by a well, you should not drink the "first draw" of water from a faucet, but let it run 15 to 30 seconds to clear out any contaminated water.

Two LCS sites tested over the new level of 4ppb lead. One site is a custodial floor sink and the other is for a stationary steam kettle in the kitchen that we don't use. Neither of these sites would ever be used for drinking water. Remediation at the 2 sites will include immediately placing signage "Do Not Use this Faucet for Drinking or Cooking". Long term remediation (2022 -2023) will include removing the steam kettle water fill faucet.

If you have any questions, please contact either the LCS Principal, Paul Russo, or me.

Best regards,

Mary Bowers

Licensed Drinking Water Operator for the Lincolville Central School
207-882-7744