



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
Operations Division
Office of Environmental Management & Services
440 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130
215-400-4750

August 1, 2017

Dear Houston Elementary School Family,

To guarantee that students have access to safe drinking water at school, from 2000 to 2010, The School District of Philadelphia (District) conducted a water testing program at schools throughout the District. Nearly 30,000 drinking water outlets were tested and all tested outlets that remain in service produced results that were below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level for lead in water of 20 parts per billion (ppb) and were safe for drinking.

In response to recent public health concerns about lead in water nationally, the District began retesting drinking outlets in your child's school. Our mission remains to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff and because of this we have instituted a stronger water safety threshold of 10 ppb, which is below the national EPA measurement of 20 ppb¹.

At your school, 18 of the water outlets passed this stronger water safety threshold and the water is safe to drink. One water outlet was found to have results above our stronger water safety threshold and was immediately shut off. We are currently developing an action plan to repair or permanently remove it. In addition, we have begun installing hydration stations in schools across the District and by the end of the year we will have hydration stations in every District school.

Federal studies indicate that children under the age of six are at the highest risk for harmful lead exposure, and children can be exposed to lead from a variety of sources, including paint, soil and even some consumer products. If you are concerned about your child's possible lead exposure risks, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) recommends contacting your pediatrician or neighborhood Health Center for testing.

Additionally, PDPH's lead hotline can address any health related questions you may have or help you in deciding whether to have your child tested; for questions or more information, please call (215) 685-2788. For additional information about lead and children you can visit www.cdc.gov/lead.

If you wish to view the detailed results from your school you may visit the District's website at www.philasd.org/waterresults to learn more.

This re-testing is one part of the District's Drinking Water Program, also available on our website. A key focus is to provide students with healthy hydration – safe, accessible and appealing drinking water in every school.

Sincerely,

Francine Locke, MS
Environmental Director

¹ This letter and the accompanying table have been revised to reflect the more stringent 10 ppb criteria for lead that has been adopted by the School District of Philadelphia. The previous letter was based upon a 15 ppb criteria for lead.

School Name: **Houston Elementary School**

Outlet ID #	Outlet Location	Sample Collection Date	Test Result (ppb)	Test Results
6260-00-DW-001	Outside boy's room - left	10/20/2016	3.6	BA
6260-00-DW-002	Outside boy's room - right	10/20/2016	1.1	BA
6260-00-DW-003	Outside girl's room - left	10/20/2016	2.4	BA
6260-00-DW-004	Outside girl's room - center	10/20/2016	0.75	BA
6260-00-DW-005	Outside girl's room - right	10/20/2016	1.0	BA
6260-00-DW-006	Outside mechanical room	10/20/2016	3.9	BA
6260-00-DW-007	On column in lunch room	10/20/2016	2.9	BA
6260-01-DW-011	Hall next to auditorium	10/20/2016	5.7	BA
6260-01-DW-012	Outside Room 102	10/20/2016	0.93	BA
6260-01-DW-013	In Room 109	10/20/2016	14.5	AA
6260-01-WC-014	In main office	10/20/2016	0.97	BA
6260-01-DW-016	Outside Room 107	10/20/2016	1.6	BA
6260-02-DW-017	Outside Room 207	10/20/2016	1.5	BA
6260-02-WC-018	Room 211B - lounge - next to Room 209	10/20/2016	7.5	BA
6260-02-DW-019	Outside of Room 202	10/20/2016	1.6	BA
6260-02-DW-020	Outside of Room 210	10/20/2016	4.8	BA
6260-03-DW-021	Outside of Room 302	10/20/2016	0.92	BA
6260-03-DW-023	Outside of Room 307	10/20/2016	4.7	BA
6260-01-WC-024	Room 122 - Element 3	10/20/2016	0.26	BA

DISTRICT ACTION LEVEL FOR LEAD IS 10 ppb*

SPREADSHEET LEGEND

BA - Below District Action Level of 10 ppb

AA - Above District Action Level of 10 ppb

*EPA ACTION LEVEL FOR LEAD IS 20 ppb