

Oxford Academy and Central School District



Mission: To develop self-directed learners who are able to make intelligent choices and contribute positively to society.

Vision: To be a leader in achievement, one student at a time.

Notice to Parents, Guardians, and Staff Oxford Academy and Central School District Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

At Oxford Academy and Central School District, the health and safety of our students, staff, and community are our top priorities. To ensure a safe learning environment, we regularly test our drinking water for lead, following New York State Public Health Law and Health Department regulations. This notice provides details about the recent testing results, actions taken, and resources available to address concerns about lead exposure.

What Is First-Draw Testing?

Lead levels in school water can increase due to infrequent water use. Water that sits in pipes overnight or over a weekend can absorb lead from plumbing. To address this, schools collect "first-draw" samples after the water has remained unused for a period. These samples may show higher lead levels, helping identify problematic outlets.

Test Results

Periodic testing is conducted every six months, along with mandated triennial testing. Results from **12/17/2024** showed the following outlets exceeded the **5.0 ppb** threshold:

- Middle School Drinking Fountain by Room 224: **6.6 ppb**
- 5th Grade Hallway Drinking Fountain: **5.5 ppb**

What Actions Are Being Taken?

- Outlets with lead levels above 5.0 ppb have been removed from service.
- Inline filters will be installed, and the outlets retested before use.
- Outlets below the threshold remain in service but will be replaced as part of a phased plan.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead is a neurotoxin that can harm children's development, particularly in those under six years old. It can affect growth, behavior, and learning. Pregnant women exposed to lead may face risks like low birth weight and developmental delays in infants.

Other Sources of Lead Exposure

In addition to water, lead exposure can come from:

- Lead-based paint in older homes
- Soil and dust contaminated by historical use of lead in gasoline and manufacturing
- Certain consumer products like pottery, brass fixtures, and cosmetics

Should Your Child Be Tested for Lead?

The risk depends on factors like age, weight, water consumption, and exposure to other sources. Blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's lead levels. Discuss with your physician to see if testing is appropriate for your child or during pregnancy.

Additional Resources

- Testing Program/Results: Contact Thomas Fargo at (607) 335-1220 or Jason Lawrence at (607) 335-1283.
- Lead in School Water: [NYS Health Department Website](#), [NYS Education Department Website](#)
- Blood Lead Testing: [What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means](#)

Full lead testing report is available on the district's website. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Cody Hrehor, Head Custodian, at (607) 843-2024 ext. 1156.

Sincerely,



Nicholas A. Colosi
Superintendent of Schools
Oxford Academy and Central School District