



# SANDWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**MICHELLE AUSTIN**  
Director of Finance and Business Operations  
[maustin@sandwich.k12.ma.us](mailto:maustin@sandwich.k12.ma.us)

**PAMELA A. GOULD, ED.D.**  
Superintendent  
[pgould@sandwich.k12.ma.us](mailto:pgould@sandwich.k12.ma.us)

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

33 Water Street  
Sandwich, MA 02563  
Tel: 508 888-1054  
FAX: 508 888-9505

**MAUREEN WIKLUND**  
Director of Curriculum  
[mwiklund@sandwich.k12.ma.us](mailto:mwiklund@sandwich.k12.ma.us)

**MARILYN VROUNTAS**  
Director of Pupil Services  
[mvroutas@sandwich.k12.ma.us](mailto:mvroutas@sandwich.k12.ma.us)

**BRYCE HARPER**  
Director of Technology  
[bharper@sandwich.k12.ma.us](mailto:bharper@sandwich.k12.ma.us)

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To the Students, Families, and Staff of the Sandwich School District,

Earlier this school year, the district was able to secure a spot in Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The program provided the funding for schools to test their school fixtures for the presence of lead and copper. Lead and copper are not believed to be in high levels in our water source, but in the plumbing and fixtures in the buildings. This program focused on testing the actual taps in the schools used for drinking, cooking and medical uses. The High School, Oak Ridge School and Forestdale School were included in this program.

This program required the district to inventory all potential drinking water locations and sample the locations early in the morning. Each fixture required two samples, one "first draw" sample where the water had been sitting in the fixture overnight, and the second sample was taken after flushing the tap for 30 seconds. The samples were then send to a lab for analysis of copper and lead containments. The Massachusetts Action Levels for lead are .015 mg/l, and 1.3 mg/l for copper.

We recently received our water testing results for the High School and STEM Academy. Those specific results that were above the action levels are in the tables below. The faucets that tested above the action levels for lead were all on the first draw sample. The faucets that tested above the action levels for copper were located in science labs.

Lead Results Above Action Levels:

Sample Location Description	Date Sampled	Sample Number	Lead Results (mg/l) "Fist Draw"	Action Taken
STEM, Room A204, Instructor Desk	12/20/2016	017P	0.03174	Fixture Labeled "Handwashing Only"
HS, Kitchen Kettle (Left)	12/21/2016	003P	.01745	Fixture disconnected from plumbing
HS, Room C322 Faucet next to eye wash	12/21/2016	018P	.0554	Fixture Labeled "Handwashing Only"
HS, Room C336, Faucet on right next to eye wash	12/21/2016	019P	.0659	Fixture Labeled "Handwashing Only"
HS, Room C321 Instructors Desk	12/21/2016	020P	.0616	Fixture Labeled "Handwashing Only"
HS, Room C227 Instructors Desk Faucet	12/21/2016	029P	.0297	Fixture Labeled "Handwashing Only:

Copper Results Above Action Levels:

Sample Location Description	Date Sampled	Sample Number	Copper (mg/l)	Results	Action Taken
STEM, Room A204, Instructors Desk	12/20/2016	011P	3.690	(FIRST DRAW)	Fixture Labeled "Handwashing Only"
STEM, Room A303 on wall	12/20/2016	014P	1.377	(Frist Draw)	Fixture Labeled "Handwashing Only"
STEM, Room A304 Wall	12/20/2016	016F	1.605	(Flush Sample)	Fixture Labeled "Handwashing Only"

The administration takes these results very seriously and is moving immediately to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. The kitchen kettle fixture was removed from service immediately on February 7<sup>th</sup>, the day after the results were received from MassDEP. The remainder of the faucets were labeled as handwashing only as they are located in science labs. Faucets in science labs should not be used for drinking water, and were only included in the program to include each room as a baseline. The kitchen kettle faucet will be replaced, and the water from the replacement will be resampled prior to returning it to service.

Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead exposure from drinking water at our schools.

**A Reminder:** The water system in schools is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. If you have questions about lead in your home's water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.

If you have any questions on this information please contact Jon Nelson at [jnelson@sandwich.k12.ma.us](mailto:jnelson@sandwich.k12.ma.us) or 508-888-3312.

Sincerely,



Pamela A Gould  
Superintendent



Jonathan Nelson  
Head of Buildings and Grounds

## Useful Lead Links and Information:

### MassDEP Overview of Lead in Massachusetts Drinking Water:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/overview-of-lead-in-massachusetts-drinking-water.html>

### Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html>

### MassDEP Lead and Copper in Schools:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-copper-schools-lc.html>

EPA on Lead: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>

How Does Lead Get into Drinking Water? "Most lead gets into drinking water after the water leaves the treatment plant and comes into contact with plumbing materials containing lead. These include lead pipe and lead solder (commonly used until 1986) as well as faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. The physical/chemical interaction that occurs between the water and plumbing is referred to as corrosion. The extent to which corrosion occurs contributes to the amount of lead that can be released into the drinking water. The critical issue is that even though your PWS may deliver water that meets all federal and state public health standards for lead, you may end up with too much lead in your drinking water because of the plumbing in your facility. The potential for lead to leach into water can increase the longer the water remains in contact with lead in plumbing. As a result, facilities with intermittent water use patterns, such as schools and day cares, may have elevated lead concentrations. Testing drinking water in schools and EEC facilities is important because children spend a significant portion of their day in these facilities and are likely to consume water while they are there. That is why testing water from your drinking water outlets for lead and copper is so important. Drinking water outlets are locations where water may be used for consumption, such as a drinking fountain, water faucet, or tap, or kitchen sinks." (From MassDEP [mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/i-thru-z/lccaqa.pdf](http://mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/i-thru-z/lccaqa.pdf))