

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

On November 26, 2025, ECS Mid-Atlantic LLC collected samples from 57 water outlets sources for lead testing at the Schoharie Elementary School. Those outlets with levels of lead above 5 ppb and their analytical results can be viewed in the table below.

School Sample ID	Sample Location	Outlet Description	Lead Result mcg/L (ppb)
EL-103-EXAM	Nurse's Office	Exam Sink	5.8
EL-112-CS	Room 112	Classroom Sink	10.6
EL-112A-CS	Room 112A	Classroom Sink	6.7
EL-113-CS	Room 113	Classroom Sink	5.2
EL-113A-CS	Room 113A	Classroom Sink	7.7
EL-KIT-FP	Kitchen	Food Prep Sink	6.7
EL-KIT-S	Kitchen	Basin Sink	5.6
EL-KIT-TCP-R	Kitchen	3 Comp Sink Right	11.2
EL-203-CS	Room 203	Classroom Sink	18.6

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) were posted with signage that the water outlet is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

After further remediation and re-testing, only 2 outlets (Room 112 and 112A) tested above the action level. Those outlets have been labeled non-potable. The district will address the issue and re-test the 2 aforementioned outlets.

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors, including but not limited to, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil, and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results, contact Shawn Gathen, Director of Facilities and Transportation, at (518) 295-6689, or go to our school website: <https://www.schoharieschools.org/>

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm