

April 27, 2017

Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School  
272 Morris Ave.  
Summit, NJ 07901

Dear Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting students, teachers, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Summit Public Schools tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

As a district, Summit Public Schools was proactive in testing the water in our schools, before the Department of Education required schools to do so. Once the DOE put out guidelines for testing the drinking water, we compiled and conducted expanded tests to include every possible draw point for drinking water.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Summit Public Schools will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]). This includes turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "Do not drink. Safe for handwashing only." sign will be posted.

#### Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within Summit Public Schools. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 32 samples taken at LCJSMS, all but two tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 µg/l for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Summit Public Schools has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

<b>Sample Location</b>	<b>First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)</b>	<b>Remedial Action</b>
Cafeteria Kitchen Sink # 2	17.0	Signage (Not for Drinking. Handwashing only.)
Water Fountain Across from Rm 214	30.3	Took this out of service. Turned off water feed.

### Next Steps

Summit Public Schools will schedule a second test for these locations. The second test will help to further delineate the source of the high lead levels. The reason for the high lead levels may be old faucets, clogged aerators, or infrequent use. Based on the results of the second test, the district will remediate the issue and will take all steps necessary to ensure safe drinking water for our students and staff.

### How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

### Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

### For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at [www.summit.k12.nj.us](http://www.summit.k12.nj.us). For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Mr. Louis Pepe in the Business Office at 908-273-3025.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

June Chang  
Superintendent of Schools