



Subject, if electronic: Water Quality Testing Results for Mark Twain Elementary School

Dear Mark Twain Elementary School Parents and Families,

Our top priority is ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff, and we take a proactive approach to testing the drinking water in our schools. Lead can be found in pipes, faucets, interior plumbing fixtures and materials and we believe that routine water testing is an important and necessary action to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

Between August 20, 2020 and January 20, 2021, we performed a series of water tests on 4 sources in your school. We are cumulatively reporting the highest result for the fixtures tested.

While the EPA does not require any action for fixtures that test below 15 ppb, out of an abundance of caution the district has taken fixtures that produced a reading at or above 5 ppb out of service while CPS Facilities assesses the cause and completes necessary repairs. Below are the fixtures that had samples with readings between 5 and 14.99 ppb.

Fixture	Location	Sample Result (ppb)
Water fountain 54221-1-HAL-F01	Across from Room 101	8.83

The fixture listed was taken out of service and repaired. Results for subsequent testing collected on January 20, 2021 were less than 5 ppb.

The full results of your school's water samples can be found online at cps.edu/waterqualitytesting.

Chicago's water supply is free of lead when it leaves the treatment plant. However, lead can be found in some interior plumbing fixtures and materials, and lead found in tap water usually comes from the corrosion of these items. This explains why only the above area(s) at Mark Twain Elementary School returned with elevated results. The issue is not system-wide, but it is specific to the fixtures or pipes that will be addressed through the remediation plan. The full results of every school's water samples can be found online at cps.edu/waterqualitytesting.

Federal guidance indicates that children under the age of six are at the highest risk for harmful lead exposure, and they can be exposed to lead from a variety of sources. The most common source of lead exposure is lead-based paint or dust, but other sources include water, soil, and even some consumer products. If you are concerned about your child's possible lead exposure risks, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends contacting your pediatrician to discuss having your child tested.

If you have any other health-related questions or concerns, CDPH's lead hotline (312-747-5323) can help you determine whether your child should be tested for lead. Additional information is also available at the Centers for Disease Control's website at www.cdc.gov/lead.



Your child's health and safety is of utmost important to us, and we are doing everything in our power to address this situation in a quick and thorough manner. We will continue to keep you and your family informed throughout this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice K. Jackson".

Janice K. Jackson, EdD
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Arwady, MD".

Dr. Allison Arwady
Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health