

Notice Notice Notice

LaGrange Middle School

Public Water System

Fed ID: NY1319316

Important information about lead in your drinking water:

LaGrange Middle School found elevated levels of lead in drinking water at some sinks. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water. **Please note that additional testing was done and your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.**

What happened:

Water samples were collected from 10 locations at LaGrange Middle School on September 26, 2021. The 90th percentile level was 0.0235 milligrams per liter (mg/l), which exceeded the lead action level of 0.015 mg/l, in accordance with Section 5-1.40 of the New York State Sanitary Code.

Because the 90th percentile calculation exceeded the lead action level, water quality parameter samples were required to be collected by November 30, 2021. These samples were collected on December 20, 2021 and on September 26, 2022, past the deadline, and one of the required samples was not collected. LaGrange Middle School was required to recommend optimal corrosion control treatment to the State by March 31, 2022. This requirement was not met. Public education materials about lead were required to be distributed and certification of their delivery sent to the State. The State has not received certification of their delivery or that education materials were distributed. Twenty lead and copper samples were required to be collected in the monitoring period following the lead action level exceedance but only ten were collected. Twenty samples were collected in the ensuing two monitoring periods.

Subsequent lead and copper samples have met New York State and EPA standards for lead and copper. Samples collected on June 26, 2022, September 4, 2022 and June 26, 2023 were below the lead action level. **Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.**

The following steps are being taken to correct the problem:

LaGrange Middle School returned to the standard sampling requirement for lead and copper of 20 samples every 6 months. After 20 samples resulted below the lead and copper action levels in the 2nd half of 2022 and the 1st half of 2023, LaGrange Middle School qualified for reduced sampling of 10 samples every year. LaGrange Middle School intends on connecting to the nearby municipal water district in the future. LaGrange Middle School has been directed to recommend optimal corrosion control treatment to the State by April 5, 2024. If future lead or copper samples exceed the action levels, LaGrange Middle School must take steps towards optimizing the corrosion control treatment and provide public notification for lead and copper violations. Lead public education content is provided in this notice.

Health effects of Lead:

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or

exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Sources of Lead:

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace (jobs that include house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, jewelry or pottery repair) and exposure from certain hobbies (such as stained glass or pottery, fishing, making or shooting firearms and collecting lead or pewter figurines), as lead can be carried on clothing and shoes. Children's hands or their toys can come into contact with lead in paint, dust, and soil. Therefore, washing children's hands and their toys will help reduce the potential for lead exposure from these sources.

Plumbing materials, including pipes, new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows pipes, fittings, and fixtures with up to 0.25 percent weighted average of lead to be identified as "lead-free."

When water is in contact with pipes [or service lines] or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even "lead-free" plumbing may contain some lead.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water:

1. ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** Before drinking, flush your home's pipes for several minutes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line. Residents should contact their water utility for recommendations about flushing times in their community.
2. ***Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.*** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
3. ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. ***Use bottled water or use a water filter.*** If your home is served by a lead service line, or if lead-containing plumbing materials are found to be in your home, you may consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 (1-800-673-8010) or visit https://info.nsf.org/Certified/dwtu/listings_leadreduction.asp, for a consumer guide of approved water filters. In conjunction with flushing, properly operated filters are highly effective at reducing lead exposure. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Any measure you take to reduce your exposure to lead should be continued until the lead source(s) has been minimized or eliminated.

Should your child be tested for lead?

New York Public Health Law requires primary health care providers to test each child for blood lead levels at one and two years of age as part of routine well-childcare. In addition, at each routine well-child visit, or at least annually if a child has not had routine well-child visits, primary health care providers screen each child who is

six-months of age through age 6 years, for risk of lead exposure. Each child found to be at risk is referred for blood lead level testing.

If your child has not had routine well-child visits (since the age of one year) and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health at (845) 486-3419 or your healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

For More Information

Call the Arlington School District at 845-486-4977 or visit our website at <https://www.arlingtonschools.org/AHS>. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health at 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 106, Poughkeepsie, NY, (845) 486-3404 or WEP@dutchessny.gov or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1-800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at (518) 402-7650, or by email at bpwsp@health.state.ny.us. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For further information please contact:

Arlington Central School District: 845-486-4977

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health: 845-486-3404