



# Grafton Public Schools

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To the Students, Families, and Staff,

As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain student and staff safety, the Grafton Public Schools applied for and was selected to participate in a voluntary program to test all six of our schools for possible traces of lead and copper in our drinking water. While we have no evidence of lead or copper in our water source, the plumbing and fixtures in buildings occasionally contain lead or copper.

During recent lead and copper sampling, some water taps at our school had lead and copper levels that exceed the Massachusetts Action Level for lead and the Massachusetts and federal Action Level for copper in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities. The Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water is 0.015 milligrams per liter (also known as parts per million). The Massachusetts and federal Action Level for copper in drinking water is 1.3 milligrams per liter (also known as parts per million).

Links to all testing results are provided on the DEP website. Due to the fact that we received results just this week, they have yet to be posted as of 3-29-18.

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-copper-in-school-drinking-water-sampling-results.html>

We have created a web page that includes the testing results as well as a number of informational resources. The link to that page is: <http://www.graftonps.org/watertesting>

Our plans to reduce potential exposure to lead and copper in drinking water at our schools may be found on this page.

Lead is not believed to be in our water source, but plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain lead, resulting in an increase in the lead content in tap water. Exposure to lead is a concern because lead is a toxic metal that has a range of adverse health effects.

Copper is also not believed to be in our water source, but plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain copper, resulting in an increase in the copper content in tap water. The same mechanisms that cause plumbing to contribute lead to drinking water may also contribute copper.

Copper is a necessary micronutrient and is needed in small “trace” amounts for good health, but too much copper in the diet or in drinking water may cause adverse health effects. Some people who consume drinking water with copper in excess of the EPA action level may experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. However, most people are unlikely to experience health problems from exposure to modestly elevated copper levels in drinking water because the human body has a natural mechanism for maintaining the proper level of copper in it. People with Wilson's disease, children less than one year old, and individuals with liver disease cannot eliminate excess copper from their bodies as well and are more likely to experience negative health effects on the liver and kidney from short-term exposure to copper levels that exceed the EPA's action level. See the MassDEP Fact Sheet on copper and your health at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/a-thru-h/copperfs.pdf>

The administration takes these results very seriously and took action once results were received. To safeguard our students and other sensitive individuals (including woman who are pregnant or nursing), our school is working closely and cooperatively with MassDEP and others and taking actions as follows:

***What we are doing:***

1. We have removed from service all taps with lead or copper levels over the Action Level.
2. We are implementing a public information process that will include distribution of outreach material to all students, parents, teachers, staff and local officials.
3. We have developed a sampling plan to conduct testing at outlets (faucets, water fountains, etc.) where students and staff get water for drinking, beverage preparation, and cooking.
4. We are implementing a flushing and water usage plan to safeguard against lead and copper exposure from drinking water in the school at outlets that are found to be above the Action Levels for lead and copper.
5. We will undertake efforts to determine the cause of this lead and copper Action Level exceedance and evaluate the adequacy of our existing corrosion control system. We will develop and put into place a corrective action plan as quickly as possible following additional testing and consultation.
6. Through periodic reports, we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These reports will outline what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead and copper exposure from drinking water at our schools.

***A Reminder:*** The water system at the school 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. Plumbing systems also contain copper. If you have questions about lead or copper 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Cummings". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Jay Cummings