

**Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water:** *Penn Manor School District has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water at Martic Elementary School. 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.*

### **WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS BEING DONE?**

Five lead and copper samples were taken at Martic Elementary School in September 2016. Two of the samples came back with elevated lead levels. We believe the results were due to the sinks not being used on a regular basis. Proper procedures issued from PA DEP are being followed, such as Water Quality Parameter testing, Corrosion Control Treatment and additional lead tests. The procedures are to ensure that there is no real threat in the system. Data from previous years has shown that lead has not been a threat before; however, guidelines listed in this pamphlet should be followed until further notice.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and **Penn Manor School District** are concerned about lead in the drinking water at Martic Elementary School (PWSID: 7360568). Although most areas of the school have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some rooms have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under federal law, Penn Manor is required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by **the end of 2017**.

This program includes:

1. Corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water);

2. Source water treatment (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves the treatment facility); and
3. A public education program.

We are also required to replace the portion of each lead service line that we own if the line contributes to lead concentrations of more than 15 ppb after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program. Penn Manor School District does not have any lead in its source water or water mains in the street.

If you have any questions about how we are implementing the requirements of the lead regulations please call the district office at **717-872-9500**.

This brochure explains the simple steps you can take to protect yourself by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

### **HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD**

*Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. Lead exposure can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with reduced IQs in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead exposure more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and can be released later in life. During pregnancy, lead is transferred from the mother's bones to the child, which may affect brain development.*

### **SOURCES OF LEAD EXPOSURE**

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are some plumbing materials, lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies. Lead can be carried on clothing or shoes. Lead also is found in some toys, playground equipment, and children's metal jewelry.

Brass faucets, fittings and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute to lead exposure in drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled "lead-free."

When water comes in contact with pipes or service lines and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Other sources of lead include lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often, as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

### **STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN WATER**

1. To flush lead from interior plumbing, run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been used for several hours.

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. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing a water filter or bottled water.



Read the filter package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead, or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

5. Get your child's blood tested. Contact your local health department or health care provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call us at [717-872-9500](tel:717-872-9500) or visit our website at [pennmanor.net](http://pennmanor.net). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), or contact your health care provider.

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