

AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst Regional School District
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September 23, 2016

Dear ARMS Community:

The Town of Amherst and the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools opted to participate in a voluntary program organized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to test for lead and copper in schools due to the health impacts these metals can have on children and staff members. We took this proactive step (along with 179 of the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth) because we believed it was in the best interest of our students and staff to ensure the health and safety of all in our community.

During testing that occurred at Amherst Regional Middle School on September 9, 2016, 43 faucets and sinks were evaluated for lead and copper levels. We were notified today that out of those 43, 11 bubblers and 12 faucets tested for lead at levels above the state and federally defined relevant action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) on “first draw” samples. “Flush samples” (which is testing completed after running the water for 30 seconds) from thirteen of the fixtures were within acceptable guidelines. However, 10 fixture’s flush samples tested at or above the action level for lead. Seven of these were bubblers. Two bubblers are located near rooms C4 and C25, one is in the Family Center, and one is near the first floor elevator. Three bubblers are in the gymnasium section of the building. Two are in the pool area and the other is in the hallway near the old woodshop. The other fixtures were faucets located in room C28, the Family Center and the LSSE break room. All of these fixtures will be taken out of service until repairs are made. Town and School staff are investigating the cause of the lead and are working to resolve the issue. Lead is not believed to be in the primary water source at ARMS because of the aggregate results tests which indicates good piping and good source water. None of the samples tested above the action level for copper on initial or flush samples.

The water outlets that tested fine will no longer be flushed in the morning as had been our practice since the start of school this year. Until the issue is resolved, we will continue to share information as the source of the problem is investigated and further testing is completed.

To find out more information, please see this [FAQ document](#) produced by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Sincerely,

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