



# MIDWAY R-I SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home of the Vikings"

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April 23, 2024

To All Midway R-1 Parents and Patrons

The Missouri Legislature passed the Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act in the spring of 2022. Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels. Lead is persistent, and it can bio-accumulate in the body over time.

Young children and infants are particularly vulnerable to lead because the physical and behavioral effects of lead occur at lower exposure levels in children than in adults. A dose of lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a significant effect on a child. In children, low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells.

Provisions of the Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act dictates that all schools must provide drinking water that has a lead concentration level below five (5) parts per billion (ppb). On or before January of 2024, schools must identify all outlets for drinking water or for all cooking purposes and then develop a plan for testing of those water sources. Before students return to school in August of 2024, all testing must be done and a plan developed for any needed remediation. This plan must be publicized.

In March, the identified water sources were tested by Axiom Service Professionals out of Kansas City and final results presented to us last week. Samples were taken from across the Midway R-1 Campus.

Of the 91 samples received from district name, 34 were identified as testing over the threshold of 5 parts per billion (ppb). Often, the first sample was over the threshold, but the second was under. It is important to note that all modern water fountains, bottle fillers, and our kitchen tested under the 5 ppb threshold.

Short-Term Control Measures—the district has taken the following steps already to address these issues:

- Shut off access to the older drinking fountain in the classroom identified
- Marked all problem sinks, outdoor spigots, and other locations as "Not for Drinking/Cooking"
- Ordered appropriate filters for many outlets
- Communicated with testing company to reschedule testing after filters are installed.

The district is developing a lead remediation plan, which will be visible on our website once it is complete.

The Midway R-1 School District takes the issue of lead in drinking water seriously as the health risks are well documented. We are exercising an abundance of caution as we work to eliminate sources of contamination where the samples were over the approved threshold. Until filters can be ordered and received in the district, effected water outlets will be marked as unsafe for consumption and/or turned off, even if only one test was out of compliance.

It is important to remember that this legislation applies to water supplied for drinking and food preparation/ cleanup. It does not apply to showers, handwashing stations or toilet flushing.

As the district works to bring all water sources into compliance, updates will be provided via the school website.

I have attached the complete report for your reference. As always, feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heath Oates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "O".

Heath Oates

Superintendent

Midway R-1 School District

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