



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Hale Middle School Water May Contain High Levels of Lead and Copper

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we (**Added a second pump for corrosion control**) to correct this situation.

Hale Middle School is required to provide corrosion control treatment to the drinking water it supplies to its customers to reduce lead and copper levels at consumers' taps. Hale Middle School installed corrosion control treatment in May 2000 as a treatment technique to mitigate a copper action level exceedance. The raw water from the well is treated to increase the pH of our well water to a neutral pH, making the water less corrosive and thereby reducing the leaching of lead and copper from plumbing materials into the drinking water. All subsequent monitoring rounds have produced results in compliance with both the lead and copper action levels.

On October 16, 2020, emergency disinfection was put into service in response to an issued Boil Order. The corrosion control treatment was taken offline at that time to use the chemical feed pump to supply sodium hypochlorite to the water system. This means that the water being supplied to consumers was not receiving the required corrosion control treatment. On January 27, 2021, the corrosion control treatment was returned to service. This means that during this period we were not providing the same quality, specifically corrosion control treatment of the drinking water, as required. Our failure to maintain operation of this treatment system is a treatment technique violation requiring us to notify our customers within a specified timeline. We also failed to notify both you, our customers, of the situation by issuing the required public notice within the required 30 day timeline, and MassDEP within 48 hours of learning of the treatment technique violation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead and copper. The most recent tests from September 2020 show lead and copper levels in compliance with the limits or "action levels," but these samples were collected when the treatment system was in operation. This treatment helps prevent lead and copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. While this treatment system is off-line, you should know that it is possible that the levels of lead and/or copper in your tap water may have been elevated.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Contact us via the information provided below to find out the most recent water test results for lead and copper and when sampling will be conducted next.
- Run the tap water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead and copper from the pipes.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead and copper dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil the tap water to remove lead and copper.** Excessive boiling water makes the lead and copper more concentrated – the lead and copper remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified **within 24 hours**. Typically, lead enters the water supply by leaching from building service piping, lead solder used in plumbing, and lead and brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason; however, many older buildings may contain these types of plumbing materials. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your building are made of lead or contain lead solder. Copper pipes are still commonly used in household and building plumbing. Buildings that have copper pipes may notice some color changes (green staining) in the sinks, tubs, etc.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor".

What is being done?

[Added a second pump corrosion control. This includes conducting lead and copper sampling as outlined in the approved plan from MASSDEP]

Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources • Rob Frieswick, Director of Facilities
Joan DeAngelis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services • Tania Rich, Director of Athletics
Patricia Marone, Business and Operations Manager

www.nrsd.net

50 Mechanic Street, Bolton, MA 01740
O - 978-779-0539 F - 978-779-6812

For more information, please contact [Adam Bertrand] at [888-377-7678], 253B Worcester Road | Charlton, MA 01507 [], or [ABertrand@rhwhite.com].

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.

This notice is being provided to you by: **Hale Middle School** PWS ID#: **2286005**

Date distributed: **03/05/2021**

NON-CE-21-00010615

Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources • Rob Frieswick, Director of Facilities
Joan DeAngelis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services • Tania Rich, Director of Athletics
Patricia Marone, Business and Operations Manager

www.nrsd.net

50 Mechanic Street, Bolton, MA 01740
O - 978-779-0539 F - 978-779-6812