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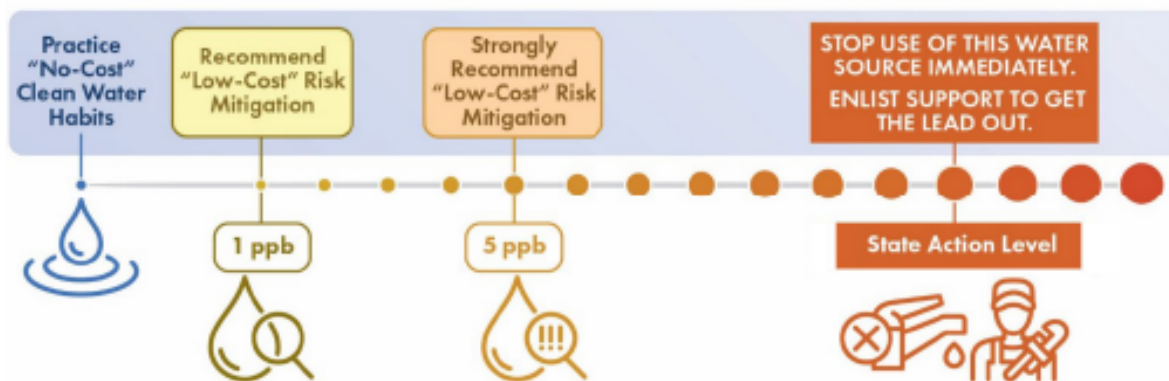
1/22/2024

Dear Parents,

Catoosa County Public Schools is committed to ensuring the safety of the drinking water in our schools. As part of this commitment, we have proactively participated in the Clean Water for Georgia Kids™ program, a collaborative effort between the research institute RTI International and the Georgia Department of Education. Participation in this program is voluntary and the primary goal is to identify and eliminate lead from drinking and cooking water in educational institutions across Georgia.

In collaboration with RTI International and the Georgia Department of Education, CCPS has implemented a comprehensive plan to test all drinking water fountains and outlets where students and staff obtain water for consumption. We are pleased to share that we have received the test results for three campuses: Ringgold Elementary (includes Ringgold Primary), Tiger Creek, and Graysville Elementary. Testing for our next set of schools is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks.

The laboratory results provide detailed insights into the levels of lead detected at each water tap sampled, along with corresponding recommendations based on the identified lead levels. It is essential to note that lead results are measured in parts per billion (ppb), where one ppb is equivalent to approximately one drop of food coloring in a backyard swimming pool. RTI basically classifies tested water samples into four categories, each recommending different actions based on the level of lead identified.



These recommended actions range from simple no-cost clean water habits, such as using only cold water for drinking and cooking, to low-cost risk mitigation measures like replacing faucet fixtures and using lead-free hoses. In cases where a tap registers 15.0 ppb lead or more, immediate closure of access to that outlet is necessary, with provisions made for children and staff to access an alternate source of water free of charge.

We want to emphasize that no CCPS water samples were at or above the state action level, which is set at 15.0 ppb (You can view your school's water testing results at the following link which is posted on our website- [Public Data Mapper](#)). Nonetheless, as there is no safe level of lead in drinking water (the limit recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics is 1.0 ppb), we are diligently taking action steps for taps that tested at levels where mitigation actions are recommended. Those recommendations may include:

1. No-Cost Clean Water Habits

- Communicate findings with parents, staff, and students
- Place designated use signs at taps for drinking and cooking
- Use only cold water for drinking and cooking
- Clean the faucet regularly
- Follow clean water habits

2. Low-Cost Risk Mitigation Measures

- Replace faucet fixtures
- Use lead-free hoses
- Install and maintain certified water filters
- Flush water regularly
- Remove faucet fixtures
- Replace water fountains and/or water coolers
- Change to lead-free products for drinking and eating

3. State Action Level Measures

- Stop use immediately
- Replace the lead service line
- Provide an alternate water source
- Replace other plumbing components

Please know that CCPS is committed to following risk mitigation recommendations and keeping you informed throughout the process. One way to do that is by posting this information on our district website. You can view your school's water testing results and the mitigation steps we are taking for each tap at the following link: [Public Data Mapper](#).

For additional information and to better understand the testing results, please visit the following link: [Understanding Testing Results](#)

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Charles Nix

Superintendent

Catoosa County Public Schools

Connect today!



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