

HOUSTON R-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT



206 W. Spruce St.
Houston, Mo. 65483
417-967-3024 · 417-967-4887 (fax)

    @HOUSTONMOTIGERS

ADMINISTRATORS

March 7, 2024

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SCHOOL BOARD

Jennifer Scheets
President

Darren Ice
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Jeff Gettys
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Dustin Hartman
Member

Charlie Malam
Member

Tressie Neugebauer
Member

Dear Houston School Staff, Students, and Community:

The Houston R-1 School District continues to partner with Get the Lead Out, LLC in a drinking water testing program to test for the presence of lead in drinking water in schools with the intent to reduce overall childhood lead exposure. Testing drinking water for lead is important to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our children to learn and play. Children can be protected from lead by reducing or eliminating dangerous lead sources before exposure. Materials, like pipes and fixtures, may contain lead and can corrode over time releasing lead into the water supply. Testing is the only way to confirm the level of lead in our drinking water.

Initial sampling was conducted by Houston R-1 Staff for the Elementary and Early Childhood Center. Sampling for the High School, Middle School, Piney River Technical Center (PRTC) and outlying facilities was conducted by Get The Lead Out, LLC.

To date, ninety-seven test points have been identified for the Houston R-1 School District. Eleven of those test points indicated greater than 5 parts per billion during the initial draw sampling phase and were re-tested using the flush test method. Five of those flush test points indicated elevated readings, indicating that supply lines are the contributing factor to the elevated levels. Six of those flush test points were localized to the outlet itself. One of the test points indicated greater than 5 parts per billion during the initial draw sampling phase on 2/6/24 and is scheduled for re-test using the flush test method on 3/8/24.

Elevated levels can be caused by several factors: hardness of the water, corrosion of iron pipes, high pH, high alkalinity, high temperatures (water heaters), high corrosivity, and the specific gravity of the materials used in construction of the outlets. As lime scale builds up, it can cause a bottleneck that traps corrosion particulate matter that then leaches into the water supply lines. Additionally, older faucets may have been manufactured before the lead/copper rule as explained in 40 CFR subpart 141.

Flushing practices were employed per the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendations to reduce the lead levels in essential outlets such as in the kitchen. Filtration was installed and flushing practices were applied to essential fountains. Non-potable "Hand washing only" signage was placed in other locations.

Remediation recommendations were made and submitted to the school district and are ongoing. Following the February 6th testing, 5 items remain that require remediation and further testing. Those are listed in the chart below.

Remedial testing was conducted on the items that were previously repaired or replaced. We are excited to announce that all remedial testing passed with readings of less than 5 parts per billion.

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If you desire further health information, you can contact the county health department:

Texas County Health Department
www.texascountyhealth.org
950 N Highway 63, Houston, MO 65483
(417) 967-4131

The chart below shows the remaining items and tested values. Remediation test for these items is scheduled for March 8, 2024.

All reports and summative results are available on the school website at:
<https://www.houston.k12.mo.us/page/water-act>

Test point	Location	Initial	Flush	Recommendation for Remediation
PS1-HW	ECC (Cafeteria Hand Washing Sink)	7 ppb	8ppb	(1) Replace faucets or aerators and install an inline filter for extra safety, or (2) Install point of use filters, or (3) Secure and cap lines
PS2-HW	ECC (Cafeteria Hand Washing Sink)	6 ppb	<5ppb	
PS3-HW	ECC (Cafeteria Hand Washing Sink)	8 ppb	<5ppb	
PS4-HW	ECC (Cafeteria Hand Washing Sink)	5 ppb	<5ppb	
HSTN-ECC-COOP-FP/PS1-HW	CO-OP (Food Prep/Hand Washing Sink)	5.41	ND	
HSTN-ELM-WESTWING-MTP	ELEM (West Wing Water Main Test Point)	22.3	3/8/24	(1) Flush out test point for 30 minutes at full capacity to hydraulically scour any corrosion and retest, or (2) Install new supply line from meter with approved materials, or (3) install filtration at water main entry to building *note must contact PWSD to acquire this type of filter.

*ND=None Detected

For more information about lead in water testing at our facility, please reach out to myself, Dr. Justin Copley, Superintendent of Schools or Mr. Dave Rust, Director of Maintenance.

Thank you,

Dr. Justin Copley