

Press Release



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D303 Conducts Voluntary Water Testing

79% of Drinking Fountains and Sink Faucets Pass Inspection

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St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 has completed voluntary water testing of all drinking fountains and sink faucets to determine if lead is present. The results show 79% of the fountains and faucets are under the Environmental Protection Agency's action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). All drinking fountains testing over the action level have been taken out of service and will either be replaced with new, filtered systems or removed completely before the first day of classes on Wednesday, August 24.

Three District 303 buildings tested below the EPA's action level at all fountains and faucets. Those buildings are Corron School, Norton Creek School, and Thompson Middle School. The testing also indicates the water supplied to the buildings is under the action level of 15 parts per billion.

The following is a summary of the testing results:

- 608 locations were tested
- 79% of the drinking fountains and sink faucets are below the EPA action level
- 239 of 263 drinking fountains tested below the EPA's action level of 15 parts per billion
- 239 of 345 sink faucets tested below the EPA's action level. Most of those faucets are only occasionally used by students or staff such as sink faucets in science labs

As an additional precaution, all classroom sink faucets will be labeled "Hand Washing Only".

"Due to events around the country and in the area, quality of water is a topic of conversation," said Dr. Donald Schlomann, District 303 Superintendent of Schools. "We decided to test all the water fountains and sink faucets in the District so that parents can be certain we are providing a safe environment for their students."

Once it is determined water from the municipal supply is below the EPA action level of 15 ppb, lead in water is most likely to come from the solder used to connect copper pipes. Lead from solder can collect in stationary water contained in a pipe, possibly leading to a reading above the EPA's action level of 15 parts per billion. If lead is present in a pipe supplying a faucet that is not used overnight, running the faucet for a few moments will flush any lead that may be present. The testing that is being conducted is done on the first draw from a fountain or faucet that has not been used for several hours.

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