The FORUM SCHOOL Est. 1954

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July, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

The Forum School is committed to protecting students' and staff's health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, The Forum School tested our drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the Department of Education regulations, The Forum School will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (ppb). This will include turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted.

What Were the Results of our Testing?

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, we completed a plumbing profile for our buildings. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. We are happy to report, of the samples taken on July 3, 2017, all tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Does Lead Enter our Water?

Lead is rarely found in the source water; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains

(service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

What Actions Are We Taking?

Prior to sampling, The Forum School developed a Lead Sampling Plan and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all drinking water and food preparation outlets.

How Can I Learn More?

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, staff, and parents/guardians.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323), or contact your healthcare provider.

All the best,

Brian Detlefsen
Principal