



# Play and Learn School

September 2017

RE: Lead In Water Testing Results @ Play and Learn - Clifton Place

Dear School Community,

Play and Learn School has completed comprehensive testing of the drinking water outlets as per the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) emergency rulemaking.

Play and Learn retained the services of Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services to assist with complying with the NJDOE rules. Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), we completed a plumbing profile for the building. Through this effort, we identified and tested our drinking water and food preparation outlets.

## Test Results

None of the tested outlets exceeded the 15 PPB lead action level adopted by the NJDOE. Therefore, no action is required. This criterion adopted by the NJDOE is not a health-based standard.

## Health Effects of Lead

High concentrations of lead in drinking water can cause and contribute to health problems. Elevated concentrations of lead in the body can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with red blood cell production. Pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age represent susceptible populations with regard to exposures. At very high levels, acute symptoms can present. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be chronically affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

## Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. USEPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Everyone in Jersey City receives their water the same way, from the same source, whether they are a school or a residence. The City of Jersey City owns the Jersey City Water System (JCWS) that supplies the municipality. The JCWS is a public water system. The Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA) operates the sewer and water systems of Jersey City; and the JCMUA has subcontracted the operation of the JCWS to a private entity: Suez Water (formerly United Water Jersey City).

## How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is atypical among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs in higher concentrations naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers, and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets.

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 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 elevated levels of lead.

**For More Information**

A copy of the test results is available in the office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Hoffman". The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Jason Hoffman**  
*Director*