February 2, 2024

Joseph Minks

2354 S. Green Street, Centerville Mo 63633

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community:

Centerville R-1 School District would like to provide an update on our efforts to reduce potential exposure to lead from school drinking water by taking steps that include testing for lead in drinking water in our schools and sharing the sampling results. Our school has a state required program to reduce potential exposure to lead in drinking water.

Lead is a toxic metal. When children and others are exposed to lead it can have adverse health effects. “Exposure” to lead in drinking water means that children or staff consume water that contains lead through drinking or food preparation. There is no safe level of lead exposure which is why we are working to identify potential sources of exposure and are communicating actions that can be taken to both reduce lead and protect children and staff.

As part of our program, Centerville R-1 School District developed a plan to test for lead in all drinking water fountains and other outlets where students and staff get water for drinking and cooking. The state required program lead remediation level in drinking water samples is less than 5 ppb. When a lead sample is detected at or above this level, we take immediate steps to address the source of lead to protect children and staff.

The sampling results of our program and our next steps are as follow:

* On July 27, 2023, we tested 3 fixtures throughout our schools. This included the hallway drinking water fountains and all kitchen faucets.
* Sample results show that No lead was detected at/above the remediation level in any of the 3 fixtures.
* For the 3 fixtures that lead was detected below the remediation level, we are implementing routine flushing, to further minimize potential exposure.

You can view the detailed sample results and remediation plans at the following link: <http://www.ces.k12.mo.us> Protecting the health and wellbeing of your child(ren) is our top priority and we are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way as we implement our program at Centerville R-1 School District.

Sincerely,

Joseph Minks, Ed.S

Superintendent

For Missouri requirements or lead testing guidelines: https://www.mo.gov. For U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) general information on lead: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead). For U.S. EPA information and tools about our 3Ts program on Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities – *Training, Testing and Taking Action*: [www.epa.gov/safewater/3ts](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/3ts).

**Considerations for Parents:** The only way to determine an individual child’s lead level is to have the child’s blood tested. Please contact your health provider to learn more about blood lead testing. The degree of risk depends on the child’s total exposure to lead from all sources in the environment – air, soil, dust, food, paint, consumer products, and water. If you have any immediate concerns or would like to learn more about our program to reduce lead in drinking water, please contact Joseph Minks at 573-648-2285 or jminks@ces.k12.mo.us.