



October 11, 2016

Mercy Montessori
Chris Byrnes
2335 Grandview Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45206

Dear Chris Byrnes:

Attached please find the results of the lead analyses performed for Mercy Montessori School by the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW). We appreciate the opportunity to assist you in understanding the water quality within your school. Our water utility provides a robust partnership with the schools within our service area to help all the schools understand their water quality. We consider this a high priority and have proactively partnered with schools to:

- explain our records of service lines providing water to the schools;
- verify the actual service lines;
- share a link or a copy of the recommended *USEPA 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools: Revised Technical Guidance Document (3Ts Guidelines)*;
- provide sample kits to the schools;
- analyze the samples, discuss the results in detail;
- consider follow-up samples, if needed;
- offer assistance with a remediation plan;
- post the results to the lead.mygcww.org website, school section;
- assist with creating a communications plan for the school community.

The following comments speak to the process, samples analyzed and additional steps needed to help ensure the safety of all the students within the school.

School Sample Results

Earlier this month, Mercy Montessori School collected 49 samples from drinking fountains and sinks throughout the school. The results show the following:

- 25 samples (51.02%), below the detection level (<1)
- 21 samples (42.86%), between 1ppb and 5ppb
- 2 samples (4.08%), between 10ppb and 15ppb
- 1 sample (2.04%) greater than 15ppb.

Fifteen parts per billion (ppb) is the federal Lead and Copper Rule action level; desired results are below 15. The federal action level of 15ppb pertains to water utilities and GCWW's review and comments are based on this action level. However, the USEPA 3Ts Guidelines document outlines practices for schools to put in place if samples are greater than 20 ppb.

While we strive to have results less than 15, we recognize that lead is a pervasive environmental contaminant, and no safe blood lead threshold has been identified in children or adults. Therefore, we provide recommendations to further reduce any lead levels discovered at drinking water and cooking outlets.



Next steps

GCWW has reviewed the results from your samples and provides some next-steps comments:

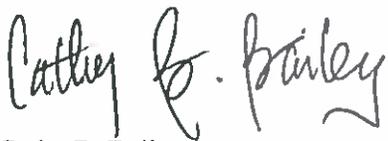
1. For results greater than 15 ppb, consider immediate remedies such as taking the sample location out of service until a more defined plan can be created. Refer to the 3Ts Guidelines that suggest shutting off or disconnecting problem outlets until the problem is resolved.
2. Although lower than the 15 ppb action level, for samples with lead detections, consider flushing the lines before using the water. Refer to the USEPA 3Ts Guidelines for more information.
3. Consider completing a plumbing profile to review the fixtures in the school as some fixtures may be contributing to the lead detections in samples. If the fixtures are the source of the lead, plan to replace them. The USEPA 3Ts Guidelines outlines a great approach to creating and implementing a remediation plan. A copy of the Guidelines can be found on our website <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/assets/File/3T%20Guidance%20Manual%20for%20Schools.pdf>.

State funds are available through the new Lead Plumbing Fixture Replacement Assistance Grant Program established to provide reimbursement to eligible schools for the assessment and replacement of certain plumbing fixtures. The program is open to traditional public schools, community schools, and chartered non-public schools. Program information can be found on the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) Services and Programs website <http://ofcc.ohio.gov/ServicesPrograms/LeadFixtureReplacementGrants.aspx>.

4. If it hasn't occurred already, a robust communications plan is suggested. Communications plan steps are outlined in the 3Ts Guidelines. This plan will inform the school community of the sampling work the school has done to date and the steps the school will take to correct any issues discovered. GCWW employees can assist with this plan and are available to attend any school meetings to help explain our lead program, the sample results and our partnership with Mercy Montessori School.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works takes the presence of lead service lines and the removal of those service lines in our system very seriously. In addition, minimizing the exposure of lead within our preschools, schools, and daycares is one of our highest priorities under our Enhanced Lead Program. We look forward to our continued partnership with Mercy Montessori School. Our resources are available to assist in many ways. Please contact Jim Nelson at 591-6869 or Lynette Whiteberry at 591-7976 to discuss how we can assist with next steps within your school.

Sincerely,



Cathy B. Bailey
Director/Greater Cincinnati Water Works

Cc: Dr. Marilyn Crumpton, Cincinnati Health Department
Dr. Camille Jones, Cincinnati Health Department
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Sheila Hill-Christian, City of Cincinnati
Verna Arnette, Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Jeff Swertfeger, Greater Cincinnati Water Works