

## Greater Cincinnati Water Works – Lead Testing in Schools Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS)

September 1, 2016

Recent national events have brought increased attention to the issue of lead and drinking water quality.

By now you have likely seen the national media coverage concerning lead and local articles about GCWW's Enhanced Lead Program. In light of this, GCWW and the City of Cincinnati want to reassure citizens that providing and maintaining safe drinking water to customers is our number one priority. We take the presence of lead very seriously, and are working to further enhance our current lead program by providing solutions that will assist our customers and improve our water system.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works has formed a partnership with the Cincinnati Health Department and Hamilton County Public Health to help 'get the lead out' in the Cincinnati area. Together we are working with special groups such as schools, daycares and plan to include restaurants, hospitals, nursing homes, churches, libraries, and entertainment venues to understand the water quality of facilities where children spend ample time.

GCWW considers understanding the water quality within schools a high priority and has proactively partnered with schools to:

- explain our records of service lines providing water to the schools;
- verify the actual service lines
- share 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, if needed
- assist with creating a communications plan for the school community.

GCWW began analyzing the water for Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) in April 2016. CPS started this proactive testing process by first collecting 3-4 samples per school to quickly understand the water quality (Phase 1). CPS is now working to collect samples from each drinking water and cooking outlet within each CPS school (56 schools). It is expected that CPS will collect over 2200 samples to better understand the water quality of the schools and to ensure all children attending Cincinnati Public Schools have safe drinking water within the school facilities.

Results to date per school are shared under each school link; additional results per school will be shared as they are completed. For additional information on lead, visit [lead.mygcww.org](http://lead.mygcww.org)

### Actions to Date

Working with GCWW, Cincinnati Public Schools tested for lead in the early 1990's. Actions taken at the time included replacing/updating drinking fountains.

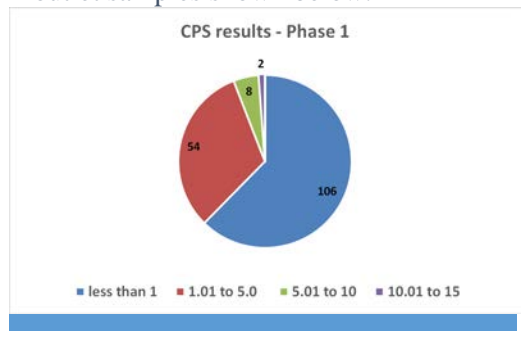
Since April 2016, 55 schools have been sampled and analyzed.

Sample results for drinking water and cooking outlets:

175 samples collected to date.  
106 (60%) below the detection level  
54 (31%) between 1ppb and 5ppb  
8 (5%) between 5ppb and 10ppb  
2 (1%) between 10ppb and 15ppb  
5 (3%) greater than 15ppb, but not drinking water and cooking outlets.

15ppb is the Lead and Copper Rule action level.<sup>1</sup>

Results of drinking water and cooking outlet samples shown below.



<sup>1</sup> 15ppb is the Lead and Copper Rule action level and is not a health action level. Although there is no safe level of lead, the EPA urges more urgent actions for lead levels over 15 ppb. Actions should be taken to minimize exposure to lead in the water.