



## Lead Testing in BCPS

We take the health of our students and staff extremely seriously. Without being required to do so, BCPS has tested school drinking fountains for lead since 2016.

### State and Federal Regulations

The state established updated regulations regarding lead testing for drinking water in schools. House Bill 270 was signed into law on May 4, 2017, and COMAR 26.16.07 became effective on April 9, 2018. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act only regulates lead testing in schools that use public water supplies. Nine of our schools have well systems, and those systems have tested for lead as required.

### BCPS Response

As required, BCPS tested water from all potential drinking water sources in all schools during the 2018-2019 school year; we are awaiting results from some schools. BCPS schools built prior to 1990 have had bottled water for drinking since 2016 due to discoloration, not lead. Schools built during 1990 or later were provided with bottled drinking water in 2018-2019 and will provide bottled water until results meet the state's new action level of 20 parts per billion.

#### Water Testing, Analysis, and Next Steps

Before samples were collected, water had to sit in the pipes for eight to 18 hours. Therefore, water samples were collected on Saturday mornings, beginning on September 22, 2018. Water samples are being analyzed by an independent lab certified by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

If any drinking water source has lead results above the state's action level, the fixture will be turned off and replaced. The new fixture will not be available for students or staff to use until follow-up tests show that results meet the state's action level. After 2018-2019, drinking water sources in schools will be tested every three years.

#### Notifying Parents/Guardians and School Staff

Schools are sending results to parents, guardians, and staff. The results are also available on the [BCPS Lead Test Results website](#) and school websites as a Quick Link, including immediate actions and next steps if necessary.

### Common Causes of Lead Poisoning

In Baltimore County, the most common cause of lead poisoning in children is lead paint found in homes built before 1978. Please remember to keep children away from lead paint and dust, and be mindful of products containing lead, including candy, toys, makeup, and jewelry.

### Contacts at BCPS or the Baltimore County Department of Health

- For questions about testing drinking water in our schools, please contact David Glassman, BCPS supervisor of Environmental Services at 443.809.6310 or [dglassman2@bcps.org](mailto:dglassman2@bcps.org).
- For more information about lead exposure, please contact the Baltimore County Department of Health at 410.887.3725.