



# ELLWOOD CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 15, 2017

The Ellwood City Area School District is committed to protecting student, teacher and staff health. To protect our community, the ECASD recently tested our schools drinking and wash outlets for lead.

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests that schools and daycare centers test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 20 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead. Interim measures include flushing the piping system and shutting down outlets.

On November 22, 2017 we had about 100 water outlets tested which included every drinking fountain and kitchen sink in the district. Eighteen outlets tested above the 20ppb. The initial results were received on December 12, 2017. Those outlets consisted of 13 sinks, 2 showers and 3 classroom fountains. With the results, we feel that shutting the outlets down was the correct interim measure. Lead cannot be absorbed through your skin, but in caution, the sinks and showers were also shut down. Lead can only be absorbed through inhaling or ingesting. After seeing the outlets that were needed to be shut down, we felt that school could continue without major disruption or safety.

The test that occurred was a stagnant water test. An email was sent to all staff members in regards to the shutting down of the outlets. The district will now do a flush test on those 18 outlets. A flush test allows the water to run for a period of time before it is tested. Although further testing is needed and time to identify any parts of the system that contain lead, those outlets will be shut down until further notice.

A full report from the testing company has not been received at the time of this letter. Further testing will be done in the coming days. Once the full report is received, it will be posted on the district website. Please be assured that the safety of our students is the number one concern. If any student feels they need bottled water, it will be provided at each building.

Thank you,

Joseph Mancini  
Superintendent - Ellwood City Area School District