



315 West 11th Street, Pueblo, Colorado 81003

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www.pueblocitieschools.us

Dear Parents:

In light of events in other states as well as other communities in Colorado, and to be proactive and ensure that we are providing water in our facilities that meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water standards, we are partnering with Pueblo Water to sample the drinking fountains, kitchen food prep sinks, lounge sinks and other fixtures used for drinking water in ALL of our schools. This will be a major project and will take some time to complete.

As we get test results, we will forward that data to the school. School officials will then share that information with families in a timely manner by phone or letter. Reports of those tests will also be made available on the district website at www.pueblocitieschools.us.

There is no local, state or federal requirement to test school drinking water for lead. The EPA recommends that lead levels over 20 parts per billion (ppb) be remediated. We are using the lower number of 15 ppb as an action for making change. (*One part per billion is equivalent to a single drop of water in 55,000 gallons.*) No fixture will remain in operation if the lead level is at or above 15 ppb. Remedies may include fixture replacement, adding water filters and/or other plumbing projects. Alternative sources of water may be supplied to schools if needed.

It is important to note that water that leaves the Pueblo Water Treatment Plant does not contain lead. Lead normally enters drinking water from service lines. Until a few decades ago, lead pipe was widely used for service lines that carry water to houses and schools. The lead is leached out while the water sits in the pipes and fixtures. Other factors that influence the amount of lead in the water are acidity, hardness and temperature of the water.

We are planning the order of schools to be sampled with priority given to older schools, elementary schools and schools that have not been sampled in the past. Older facilities that host young students are of the highest priority. The rights of all students to safe drinking water are equal. Our commitment is that all schools will be tested as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Dalton Sprouse
Director of Communications
Pueblo City Schools