

# **REMIEDIATION COMPLETE – ALL OUTLETS COMPLIANT**

Dear Kennedy Krieger School Parents/Guardians and Staff,

In October of 2021, the notification below was posted publicly as required for our compliance with water safety regulations as mandated by the Maryland Department of the Environment. Kennedy Krieger has worked diligently to perform the required remediation to meet or exceed the new thresholds established through legislation in June of 2021.

The following actions, completed on 10/20/2021, were taken to remediate the 2 outlets at the **Kennedy Krieger LEAP Program**:

**Plumbing Fixtures Replaced** - LEAP classroom sink #10/left from doorway (room 127)

**Plumbing Fixtures Replaced** - LEAP classroom sink #11/right from doorway (room 127)

Please note, as of 5/31/2022, Kennedy Krieger School Programs reported our remediation action and results to the Maryland Department of the Environment. All 12 of the outlets initially found to be non-compliant across all KKSP buildings are now COMPLIANT (10 remediated and 2 permanently removed from service).

Please email [schoolprograms@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:schoolprograms@kennedykrieger.org) or call the number below with any additional questions.

David Stone, EdD  
AVP, School Operations  
Kennedy Krieger School Programs  
**443-923-7821**

Dear Kennedy Krieger School Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Please see the attached letter regarding lead levels in water samples from Kennedy Krieger School Programs (KKSP). You are receiving this information as required for our compliance with water safety regulations as mandated by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Water samples from KKSP in Baltimore City (Fairmount and Greenspring Campuses) were submitted for routine lead testing in December 2018. **At that time, all KKSP water sample results were below 20 parts per billion (ppb), the standard set by the Maryland Department of Environment.**

Effective June 1, 2021, a legislative change reduced the standard from 20ppb to 5ppb. This new standard was applied to the KKSP samples from December 2018 (i.e., the samples were not retested). **According to the new standard, KKSP now has 12 non-compliant water outlets (4 at Fairmount, 2 at LEAP, 6 at High School). The determination that these water outlets are no longer in compliance is the direct result of the new standard of 5ppb versus the prior standard of 20ppb and is not due to an increase in lead in the water.**

Many water outlets in nonpublic schools in Baltimore City are impacted by this new standard. In the 2018-2019 school year, 19 schools (including the 3 Kennedy Krieger Schools) submitted samples from 987 water outlets. Using the prior standard of 20ppb, only 19 of those samples were elevated (1.9%); none of which were KKSP samples. When the new standard of 5ppb is applied to those same 987 samples, 142 are now considered elevated (14%); 12 of which are the KKSP samples noted above, i.e., 1.2% of all samples tested during that school year.

The attached letter lists the impacted KKSP water outlet locations, the actions we have taken, and the actions we will take to meet the new standard. We are confident that we can take the necessary actions to be compliant with the new standard. Finally, please be aware that routine testing occurs every 3 years, and we are in the process of scheduling the next round of regular testing. We will notify you of the results accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the new standard and our response.

David Stone, EdD  
AVP, School Operations  
Kennedy Krieger School Programs  
**443-923-7821**

# Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

*Updated in response to legislation effective as of June 1, 2021*

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)**

**Kennedy Krieger School: Greenspring Campus (LEAP Program) ~ October 25, 2021**

### **ELEVATED LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)**

All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water outlets for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On **December 27, 2018**, **14** lead water samples were collected from **Kennedy Krieger School: Greenspring Campus (LEAP Program)**. Of these lead water samples, **2** had levels of lead exceeding the State's revised action level of 5 parts per billion (ppb) (*formerly 20 ppb; 5 ppb effective June 1, 2021*) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The elevated lead results from the sample(s) collected at **Kennedy Krieger School: Greenspring Campus (LEAP Program)** were as follows:

**6.4** parts per billion (ppb) ~ **LEAP classroom sink #10/left from doorway (room 127)**

**5.6** parts per billion (ppb) ~ **LEAP classroom sink #11/right from doorway (room 127)**

### **ACTION LEVEL (AL)**

Effective June 1, 2021, the State's AL for lead in drinking water samples collected from outlets in school buildings has been lowered to 5 ppb. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation of drinking water outlets.

### **HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

### **SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD**

There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These sources include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN**

**The two outlets listed above that are no longer compliant due to the revised standard, effective June 1, 2021 have been taken out of service until remediated and retested.**

### **NEXT STEPS**

**All two outlets will be remediated and retested until results are at or below the new standards. Remediation may include but not be limited to: fixture replacement, pipe refitting, etc.**

### **TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:**

1. Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.

2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula: Lead from the plumbing dissolves more easily into hot water.

*Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.*

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information, please contact **David Stone, AVP School Operations, Kennedy Krieger School Programs** at **443-923-7821**. For additional information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead). If you are concerned about exposure; contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.