



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER, FLEET ACTIVITIES, YOKOSUKA  
PSC 473 BOX 1  
FPO AP 96349-0001

April 8th, 2017

Dear Parents and Staff of Ikego Elementary School,

You will notice starting Monday, April 10th, that all drinking fountains have been placed out of service, with drinking water now being provided via separate containers throughout the building. As your Installation Commander, I would like to inform you that this is an interim (short term) precautionary control measure, stemming from a recent audit of the CFAY Drinking Water Program. The audit indicated that, over the past two years, Ikego Elementary School's drinking water system could not be confirmed with 100% confidence to have lead levels below what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends for corrective action. (There are no indications that this issue exists with water at any other school in the DoDEA Yokosuka district.)

Many of you might recall that in 2014, after our newly-constructed school opened, we also had no drinking fountains in service for six months. This was when over 140 water samples from the school's faucets and fountains were tested, and 29 of these were found to be above the EPA-recommended lead screening level of 20 parts per billion (ppb). Following a period of remediation, resampling of the water system showed the lead levels to have declined below 20 ppb by February 2015, and drinking fountains were subsequently returned to service.

Our recent audit in 2017 was a program review, and did not take any actual samples for lead in drinking water. Although we have no sampling results to conclude the 20 ppb threshold was actually exceeded, we are exercising an abundance of caution by shutting down the drinking fountains for now, as we pursue actions to correct any problems we may find. Therefore, this week, we will begin to sample the school's water to determine whether lead is in the drinking water system. These samples must be sent to a certified laboratory in the U.S. and it will take three to four weeks to receive test results. We will share this information with you via the school and our CFAY website and Facebook. If those results indicate lead levels are above the EPA recommended screening level of 20 ppb, we will implement immediate and permanent corrective actions to eliminate and/or reduce those levels to below 20 ppb.

Let me reassure you that the safety and health of our school children and staff is one of my most important priorities, and that CFAY is working closely with DoDEA, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East, and U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka (USNHY) to ensure all concerns are addressed and resolved to everyone's satisfaction. I would also like to invite all Ikego Elementary School parents to an **informational forum at the school cafeteria on Thursday, April 13th at 6 pm**, to have your questions answered, and voice your concerns.

Please refer to the Fact Sheet accompanying this letter for more information and additional resources regarding lead in drinking water. We at CFAY are fully committed to updating you every step of the way as we continue to do everything necessary to protect you and your families.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey J. Kim".

Jeffrey J. Kim  
Captain, U.S. Navy