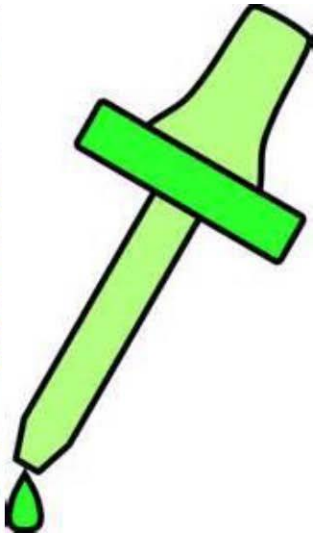
Overview of Testing Results for Lead in Drinking Water and Corrective Actions for
NAVAL AIR STATION JOINT RESERVE BASE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
SCHOOL-AGE CARE, YOUTH & TEEN CENTER (Building 561)

The Navy is committed to maintaining safe drinking water on its installations. City water supplied to the Navy and the Navy's water distribution system are regularly tested and in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Because lead exposure is a particular concern for children, and lead may be added to drinking water through the pipes, fittings, solder, and fixtures inside a building, the EPA recommends, but does not mandate, that we test the lead content of drinking water in priority areas such as youth centers (YCs), child development group homes (CDGHs) and child development centers (CDCs).

Navy environmental personnel conducted lead testing at the NAS JRB NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL-AGE CARE, YOUTH & TEEN CENTER in accordance with Navy and EPA guidelines. Samples from various locations in the SCHOOL-AGE CARE, YOUTH & TEEN CENTER were sent to a state-certified laboratory for analysis.

At the NAS JRB NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL-AGE CARE, YOUTH & TEEN CENTER, eleven (11) outlets used for drinking and cooking, as well as eight (8) outlets used for hand washing were tested. Out of nineteen (19) samples collected, one (1) water outlet initially tested above the EPA recommended level for lead in drinking water in schools and childcare centers of 20 parts per billion (ppb). One ppb is equal to one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.



The outlet that exceeded the EPA recommended level of 20 ppb was the food preparation sink at the snack bar; it tested at 44 ppb. This outlet is used for drinking and cooking. Follow-up sampling at this outlet was conducted after removing, cleaning, and reinstalling the faucet aerators. A **faucet aerator** (or tap aerator) is often found at the tip of modern indoor water faucets. Without an aerator, water usually flows out of a faucet as one big stream. An aerator spreads this stream into many little droplets, which helps save water and reduce splashing. However, the aerator and screen can trap debris which can accumulate lead.

After removing, cleaning, and reinstalling the faucet aerator, retesting showed that the sink was below the EPA-recommended level.

A copy of all test results is enclosed for your information. The test results are presented in two tables: Table 1 **Summary of Results** summarizes the data by category of use (e.g., drinking, cooking, washing). Table 2 **Summary Statistics** summarizes all the data.

Table 1 provides a description of each sampling location using three columns; *Category*, *Sampling ID*, and *Outlet Description*. The *Category* column gives information about whether the outlet is used for drinking water (water fountain), cooking (food preparation), or washing (primarily hand washing). The *Sample ID* column is the identification used to label each sample bottle. The *Outlet Description* column contains additional information to describe the outlet sampled under each category.

The next set of columns in **Table 1** provides *Initial Sampling Results*, and for those locations that exceeded the recommended level of 20 ppb the *Re-sampling Results*.

EPA sampling protocol requires water to not be used for between 8 and 18 hours prior to first draw sampling. Therefore, *Initial Sampling Results were from* first draw samples collected early in the morning before the SCHOOL-AGE CARE, YOUTH & TEEN CENTER opened and before any water was used. The *Initial Sampling Results* also indicate whether resampling is required and the date that fixtures greater than 20 ppb were secured. Outlets that exceeded 20 ppb are highlighted in yellow.

The *Re-sampling Results* includes columns for *First Draw* and flushing samples which help determine the source of lead. For cooking and washing outlets, aerators were removed, cleaned and reinstalled before retesting:

- If the lead concentration of 30-second flush sample resulted in lower than 20 ppb lead, the aerators were the source of lead and the outlet can be used for drinking if the aerators are cleaned or replaced. The kitchen sink in the snack bar fit in this category.
- If the lead concentration of the resampled first draw (but not the follow-up, 30-second flush) was greater than 20 ppb, the fixture was the source of lead. These fixtures can be used if water is flushed for 30 seconds before first use of the day or if the fixtures are replaced and retesting confirms that the new fixtures do not leach lead. None of the outlets in Bldg. 561 fit in this category.
- If the lead concentration of the 30 second flush sample was greater than 20 ppb and greater than the lead concentration of the first draw resample, the source of lead is the plumbing upstream of the outlet. These outlets should be disconnected unless upstream plumbing is replaced. None of the outlets in Bldg. 561 fit in this category.

The *Corrective Actions* column describes actions that were taken to remediate the source of lead.

To learn more about lead in drinking water schools and day care centers visit this EPA website at: http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/schools_index.cfm.

To learn more about your home's public water supplier, see their annual water quality report: Plaquemines Parish Belle Chasse Water System:

Navy Water Quality Reports:

http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/om/environmental_support/water_quality_information.html

For the answers to any questions you may have about the sampling program, contact the NAS JRB New Orleans Public Affairs Officer at (504) 678-3260. If you have any health questions or concerns, you are encouraged to call the Naval Medical Center/Naval Branch Clinic at 678-3660 or your healthcare provider.