



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA  
150 HASE ROAD SUITE-A  
PENSACOLA, FL 32508-1051

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October 02, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The safety and wellness of your children are our utmost priority, and I thank you for trusting me to implement measures that will further assure we provide the most healthful environment for your children who attend programs at our Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola facilities.

The Navy has issued new policy requiring testing of drinking water every five years to ensure our children are protected. The policy aligns with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommendation to sample for lead in drinking water at youth program sites and childcare facilities.

While current data indicates our youth program sites and childcare facilities are safe, plans are progressing to sample and analyze the drinking water for lead to identify any potential concerns and take all actions necessary to ensure continued safety and wellness of your children. Testing samples will be drawn from fountains, faucets, and outlets where water is used for drinking or cooking.

The following locations at our installation will be tested between October 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>:

- Bldg 3224 Barrancas Ball Field
- Bldg 3554 Ski Beach
- Bldg 3634 Child Dev. Center
- Bldg 3690 Youth Center
- Bldg 4191 National Flight Academy
- Bldg 4120 Corry Station CDC Annex
- Bldg 4116 Corry Station MWR Sports Complex
- Bldg 4119 Corry Station Child Dev. Center

If you would like to learn more, please refer to the factsheet accompanying this letter, or visit:  
[http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/om/environmental\\_support/lead-in-priority-area-sampling-program.html](http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/om/environmental_support/lead-in-priority-area-sampling-program.html)

Testing results, updates, and actions necessary to address any concerns will be available on our website as well as at the

front desk of our childcare facilities and affected youth program sites approximately 4 to 6 weeks after sampling.

If you have questions, please visit our website, or call (850) 452-4436.

I am committed to updating you every step of the way and will continue to ensure the safety and wellness of your children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. W. Hoskins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

K. W. HOSKINS  
Captain, U.S. Navy



# SAFE DRINKING WATER – CHECKING FOR LEAD



*The United States Navy is committed to protecting the health of their Sailors, civilian staff, and their families by providing safe drinking water. Drinking water quality, including testing for lead, is monitored throughout the installation. It is Navy policy to follow Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) optional guidelines for testing and sampling of water outlets from which children may drink at childcare centers, hospital pediatric wards, and maternity wards.*

## WHAT IS NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA DOING?

- NAS Pensacola will test water from sinks, faucets, fountains, and hose bibs at Child Development Centers (CDCs), Youth and Teen Centers, and playground areas.
- Test results will be made available at locations where testing was conducted.
- This is an ongoing program that will include yearly updates and complete retesting every five years.

## WHAT IS LEAD?

- Lead is a naturally occurring metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed.
- Lead can be found in air, soil, dust, food, and water, and is common in plumbing materials and water service lines.
- Exposure to elevated levels of lead can result in adverse health effects.

## WHAT ARE THE HEALTH RISKS OF LEAD EXPOSURE?

- Lead poses a significant health risk to young children up to the age of six, especially infants and fetuses, where the danger is very severe.
- Growing children absorb lead more rapidly and are negatively impacted by a level of lead exposure that would have little effect on an adult.
- A child's mental and physical development can be irreversibly impaired by over-exposure to lead.
- EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total lead exposure.
- Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40% to 60% of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

## HOW DOES LEAD GET INTO A FACILITY'S DRINKING WATER?

- Even though drinking water from water treatment plants may meet federal, state, local and overseas standards, a facility may still encounter elevated lead levels at the outlet or spigot due to lead in plumbing materials.
- The most common cause is corrosion of materials containing lead in the water distribution system, such as plumbing pipes, solder, water coolers, and faucets.
- Many factors contribute to corrosion, including the acidity of the water, and when water stands in the plumbing system for prolonged periods of time.

## HOW MUCH LEAD IN DRINKING WATER IS TOO MUCH?

- EPA set a guidance level of 20 ppb in childcare settings to protect children who are exposed to lead in drinking water on a chronic basis.
- EPA recommends that childcare facilities collect first-draw samples from water fountains and outlets, which maximizes the likelihood that the highest concentrations of lead are found because water remained in plumbing overnight.
- When sampling results show lead levels exceeding 20 ppb, those fountains and outlets are taken out of service until remediation is complete.

## WHAT IS REMEDIATION?

- Remediation refers to both short- and long-term actions taken to reduce the levels of lead in drinking water if test results indicate that there is a lead issue at a childcare facility.
- EPA's childcare facility sampling protocol was designed to identify specific fountains and faucets that require remediation, such as water cooler replacement.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

- Contact your family doctor or pediatrician who can perform blood tests for lead.
- NAS Pensacola Water Operations POC, Joelle O'Daniel at (850) 452-3131 ext 3027 can provide you with information about your facility's water supply.
- Tricare Nurse Line at (800) 874-2273 option 1
- More information on health effects can be found at CNIC website:  
[http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/om/environmental\\_support/lead-in-priority-area-sampling-program.html](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/om/environmental_support/lead-in-priority-area-sampling-program.html).