

**Angela Braun, R.S.**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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December 16, 2016

Dear Students, Families, and Staff of the Belmont Schools,

The Health Department was informed yesterday about the results of the most recent lead sampling from some water taps at our schools; nine taps exceed the Massachusetts action level for lead. This testing, conducted by Building Facilities in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, went beyond the state mandated testing conducted yearly and was done as a precautionary measure to safeguard the health and wellness of all students and staff.

The Health Department is working in collaboration with the Schools, the Building Facilities Department and Town officials to conduct outreach to answer your concerns and to keep you informed of testing, corrective actions, and follow-up sampling.

The Building Facilities Department and School Officials moved quickly to shut off the water faucets that demonstrated elevated lead levels. Corrective actions are being formulated to permanently eliminate the source of lead. Once the remediation is complete, follow up testing will be conducted to ensure that the problem has been addressed.

Please be advised that lead is not believed to be in our water source, but plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain lead, resulting in the lead content in tap water. Exposure to lead is a concern because lead is a toxic metal that has a range of adverse health effects. It is advisable, to teach and instruct your children, for general health and wellness, to not fill water bottles or to drink from public handwashing sinks and only use water fountains/bubblers specifically designed for drinking water. It is unlikely that lead in drinking water at school facilities alone would cause staff or children to have significantly elevated blood lead levels due to the total number of variables that contribute to overall exposure.

Ensuring safe drinking water is a top priority for the Town and the Belmont Public Schools. We will be working together with MassDEP to resolve these problems. Updates and information will be provided as it becomes available.



Please feel free to contact the Health Department at 617-993-2720 if you have any questions. Additional information regarding Belmont water and health questions concerning lead in water may be found at the following websites:

Lead in Drinking Water FAQ:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/environmental/lead/lead-drinking-water-faq.pdf>

Water quality in the Town of Belmont:

<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/monthly/wqupdate/qual3wq.htm>

Sincerely,



Angela Braun, RS

Director of Health

Belmont Health Department