

Martin County West Public Schools

Central Office
105 E. 5th St.
Sherburn, MN 56171

Cori Reynolds, Superintendent

District Number 2448
(507) 764-2330
FAX (507) 764-2335
corireynolds@mcwmavericks.org

January 3, 2023

5 year Lead Testing Results at Martin County West Public Schools

Martin County West Public Schools, as part of the School District's Health and Safety Program, has a program in place to collect water samples every 5 years from all fixtures used for drinking and/or cooking. Samples are taken and analyzed for lead content by a laboratory certified by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Samples were last collected by Tim Harbo of Harbo Consulting and analyzed by Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories (MVTL) in 2022. MDH has set a threshold of 20 ug/L as a requirement to notify parents of levels from any particular water source.

First draw samples were taken throughout all drinking sources of water in the buildings, and levels above 20 ug/L were found at 13 taps in Sherburn Elementary, 1 tap at Trimont Elementary, and 6 taps at the High School. All taps were immediately taken out of use and a plan was put in place to reduce lead levels or take taps out of service.

Martin County West Public Schools set a more stringent lead standard in our buildings than the State's 20ug/L, so only taps that came back below 5 ug/L during our initial and follow up testing were allowed to be reestablished as a drinking source. In further discussion with staff, the classroom sinks in the schools were primarily being used intermittently and for the purpose of cleaning or hand washing. It was therefore decided to take these remaining faucets out of use for drinking or food preparation. They may, however, continue to be used for handwashing and cleaning and have been posted accordingly.

All other faucets with levels greater than 5ug/L at each site intended to be put back into service were retested with first draw and flushing samples for two minutes. Of the sinks that were retested, 8 of the 1st draw samples came back above the 5 ug/L and 4 of the flushed samples came back above 5ug/L. Filtration was added to those 4 sinks and the levels were retested at less than .5ug/L. The remaining 4 came back with flushed samples below 5 ug/L and will continue to be flushed before any use until fixtures are changed and retested.

Results are available for review at the Central Office. Martin County West Public Schools is making every effort to eliminate or reduce building occupant's exposure to lead through the drinking water. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, you may contact Kevin Diekmann or Tim Harbo through the Central Office.