



Antoine L. Gayles, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

June 30th, 2024

Newark Educators Community Charter School  
12 Fulton St, Newark NJ

Newark Educators Community Charter School Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

Newark Educators Community Charter School is committed to protecting NECCS students' and staff's health. As the Department of Education regulations require, all drinking water outlets in our facilities must be sampled for lead. Newark Educators Community Charter School has scheduled the lead drinking water sampling for NECCS for July 30th, 2024.

#### Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. Lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance in young children. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

Lead is rarely found in the source water. Rather it enters the drinking water primarily due to the corrosion or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines). Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be "lead-free". The law currently allows plumbing materials up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead-free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead-free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

#### What Actions Are We Taking?

Before sampling, Newark Educators Community Charter School developed a Lead Sampling Plan for NECCS and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the school to determine if lead solder, lead pipes, or a lead service line are present.

NECCS's Lead Sampling Plan may be found on our website at <https://newarkeducators.org>



All drinking water outlets in NECCS will be sampled on July 2nd, 2024. We anticipate receiving the results from our laboratory within three weeks of sampling. Upon receiving the sample results, NECCS will inform you if any of the drinking water outlets had a result greater than the action level of 15  $\mu\text{g/l}$  (parts per billion [ppb]) and will post all of the results on our website at <https://newarkeducators.org>. The results will be used to assist in prioritizing future water testing for lead per NECCS's Lead Sampling Plan.

NECCS will also implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15  $\mu\text{g/l}$  (ppb). This will include turning off the outlet unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. A "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted in these cases.

#### How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Patrice Usry at Newark Educators Community Charter School at 973-732-3848 ext 104. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection's website at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/schools.htm>.

Sincerely,

Miss. Patrice Usry, BPA  
NECCS - Operations Manager