

Clean Water for Georgia Kids

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Walker County Schools voluntarily took advantage of the optional Clean Water for Georgia Kids initiative. Four (4) schools were initially chosen due to the construction date of certain portions of their respective buildings being prior to 1980. The approved process requires the testing of all drinking and cooking taps within the chosen building which includes sinks, water fountains, and ice machines. The test kits and results are provided in the initiative by a third party testing company. The laboratory results report will show the level of any lead detected at each drinking or cooking water tap sampled and will have a recommendation based on any detectable level found in each sample. The recommended risk mitigation measures are based on a scale measured in parts per billion (ppb) and has benchmark scores aligned with specific recommended, strongly recommended, and state action level solutions.

Results below detection limit (0.1 ppb):

- Designate taps that have tested low in lead for drinking and cooking
- Keep it cold; use cold water for drinking and cooking
- Flush water for several minutes after periods of inactivity including long weekends or extended periods when not in use
- Clean the faucet
- Communicate findings and prepare preventive measures for the future

Any detected lead (over 0.1 ppb)

- Flush water for several minutes after periods of inactivity including long weekends or extended periods when not in use
- Install and maintain certified water filters
- Replace faucet fixtures
- Replace water fountains and/or water coolers
- Stop using the tap for cooking and drinking until low-cost solutions have been implemented

Results at or above State Action Level (Georgia 15 ppb)

- Stop use immediately
- Check for lead service line
- Inspect plumbing system
- Provide an alternate drinking water sources
- Install and maintain certified water filters
- Replace faucet fixtures
- Replace water fountains and/or water coolers
- Collect follow up samples and a 30-second flush sample and resubmit

This process was followed in detail, and all results had the recommended or required low-cost solutions implemented. Every tap showing an elevated score saw significant decreases based on those solutions. Walker County Schools will continue to practice Clean Water Habits and Low-Cost Risk Mitigation for all taps.

Our goal is always the safety of our students and employees; this voluntary testing process was implemented with fidelity and the results were mitigated with the approved process. Only 6.25% (9) of all taps tested yielded results above action level. Any taps used for cooking and/or drinking, were immediately closed and the mitigation efforts implemented prior to the required retest and 30-second flush.

Based on the results and the information provided with the Clean Water for Georgia Kids initiative, Walker County Schools will also implement the following preventive measures that include:

- Continued testing at all remaining school buildings based on construction dates
- Scheduled line and fixture flushing after extended breaks including, but not limited to, long weekends, holiday, and summer breaks
- Installation and maintenance of filters on water fountains and ice machines

I am attaching the [Clean Water for US Kids Program Instructions](#). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Damon Raines-Superintendent