



On the Alert!

Date: ***June 23, 2016***

Attention: ***ASCIP Members***

Subject: ***Lead in Drinking Water***

The media attention given to the water supply system in Flint, Michigan regenerated a concern over the potential lead exposure in drinking water at our local schools. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the document “Lead in School Drinking Water”, which provides protocols for daily use of water systems and the testing process for lead in school water sources (please see link below).

Lead is a toxic substance that was commonly used in older plumbing materials and water service lines. If ingested or inhaled, lead may result in a wide range of adverse health effects in both children and adults. The most common of these health effects in small children are learning difficulties, behavioral problems, and hearing difficulties.

There is no consensus on the frequency of testing in the United States. Frequency appears to differ state-by-state with the vast majority, including California, remaining silent on this issue.

The EPA recommends that all schools flush drinking water outlets anytime the water has not been used for six (6) hours or longer. “Flush” by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get (may take as little as five to thirty seconds if there has been recent heavy water use; otherwise, possibly two minutes or longer). Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead, and thus, only water from the cold water tap is recommended for consumption (drinking, cooking, making baby formula). This flushing of the system reduces the amount of time that water remains in plumbing systems thereby reducing the amount of time that lead may leech from lead-based plumbing systems into the water.

Members who have any questions are encouraged to contact ASCIP’s risk services consultants to discuss further.

Link – Lead in School Drinking Water:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/leadinschools.pdf>