



Holyoke Water Testing Update

November 21, 2016



HOLYOKE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A PATHWAY FOR EVERY STUDENT

Tonight's Meeting

Know: The reasons why HPS participated in a water testing program and the actions taken by the District to respond to results.

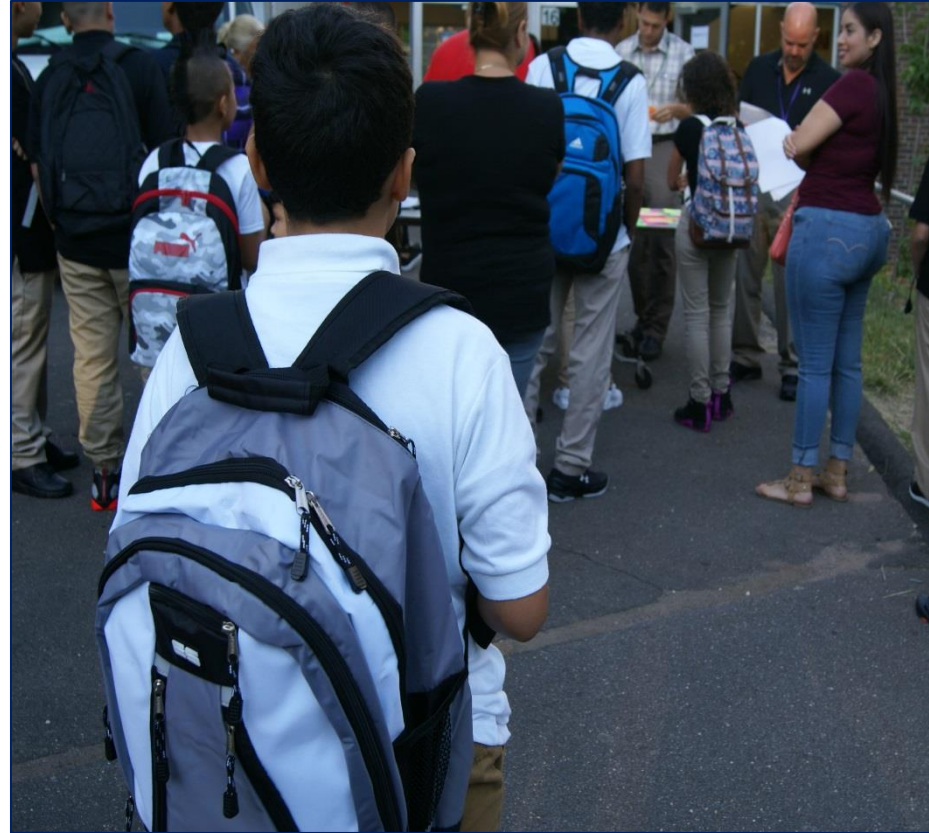
Understand: What the testing results mean.

Do: Be able to explain the information received to someone else.

VISION - a pathway for every student

Our students:

- ✓ Graduate with an additional credential that provides for college and career options
- ✓ Experience success through multiple pathways
- ✓ Think critically and communicate with purpose
- ✓ Value themselves, value others and value being part of the Holyoke community
- ✓ Lead with Growth Mindset and Self Management



HPS Values

At HPS, we...

Encourage bold thinking

Explore all possibilities for student success

Embrace all students & families as our own

Empower school teams to impact change

Engage in meaningful feedback



HPS Strategic Priorities



Statewide Water Testing Program

Voluntary Participation in Testing

Why we voluntarily participated in the water testing program

- Committed to the safety and well-being of our students and staff.
- We owe it to the community to have as much information as possible about the drinking water in the schools.
- Testing and analysis were free through a statewide clean water program.
- Formed partnership between City Departments, Health Agencies, and District staff

Statewide Problem



Metro

SUBSCRIBE NOW Get unlimited access to Globe.com today

Subscribe
Starting at 99 cents

Members
Sign In

High lead levels found more than 160 school buildings in Mass.



Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed

Most Commented

Most Shared

Donald Trump picks Jeff Sessions for AG

Ex-Bruins star Marc Savard: 'I still should be playing' in the NHL

Three teenagers charged with hate crime on Red Line

Jon Stewart criticizes 'hypocrisy' on the left over Trump voters

Top largest employers

Romney set to meet with Trump this weekend

GOP foreign policy stalwarts on edge

Holyoke is NOT Flint

Information on the Flint problem that gained national attention

- 2014: Flint switched its water source to the Flint River in 2014 (from the Detroit Water Supply) in temporary effort to save funds
- 2015: Flint is found to be in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act because of the level of total trihalomethanes, or TTHM, in the water
- 2015: An independent test done by Virginia Tech researchers finds lead levels at 13,200 ppb — water is considered hazardous waste at 5,000 ppb
- 2015: The EPA says it was notified "that the City did not have corrosion control treatment in place at the Flint Water Treatment Plant."

None of the factors are true in Holyoke. Our drinking supply has not changed and is tested regularly, no lead levels remotely close to what was found in Flint have been identified, and our treatment of drinking water follows all state and national guidelines.

Timeline

September: Samples collected at each school

October: Testing occurs

November:

- Results received and reviewed.
- Initial home to all families and staff regarding testing results along with resources to research lead in water
- Staff worked on implementing action plan so that student return to school without worrying about consumption of water with elevated levels of lead or copper
- Second letter goes home to families and staff providing an update on action plan
- *Tonight:* Community meeting

Testing and Results

Testing

- Primary Test – All faucets tested underwent 2 separate samples and from those samples 4 tests were conducted. The Primary test consisted of turning on faucet and taking a sample. From this sample there was testing conducted for Lead and Copper
- Flush Test – After the Primary test was conducted the faucet was “flushed” or turned on for 30 seconds and then another sample was taken and tested for lead and copper
- A total of 1,838 tests were conducted
- 269 or 14.6% of samples taken failed
- Only 2% of the samples taken failed after a flush

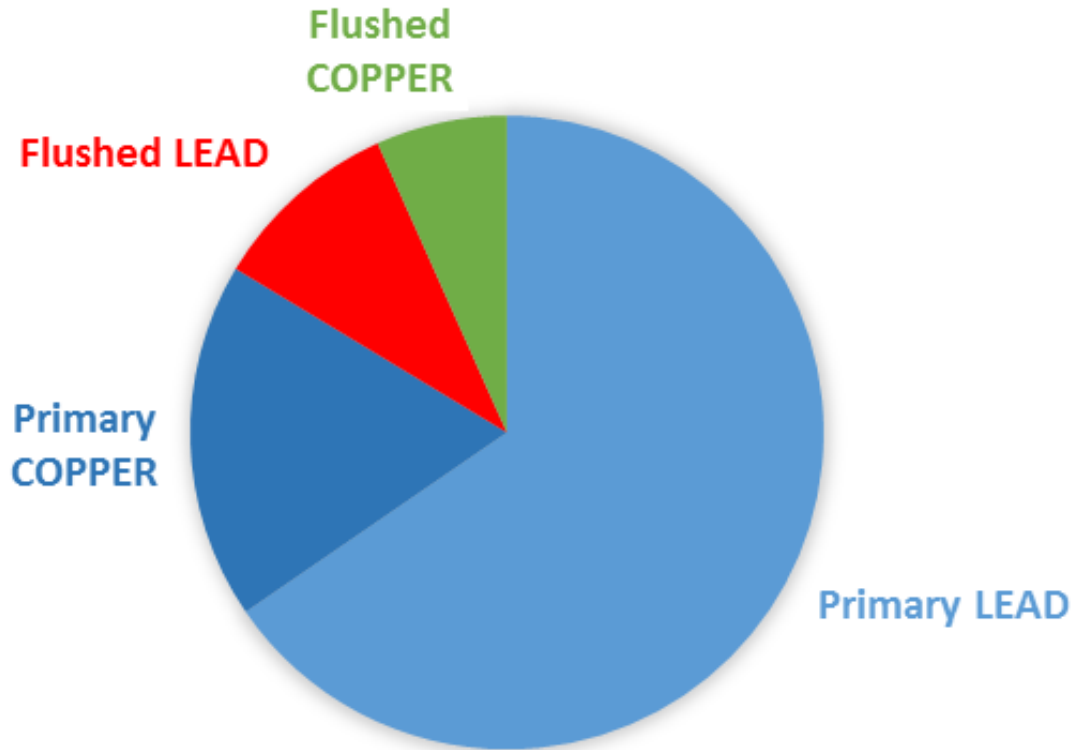
Testing and Results

Summary of Water Testing Results by School

	Total Samples Taken	Primary LEAD	Primary COPPER	Flushed LEAD	Flushed COPPER	Total Fails	%
EN White	194	11	7	3	1	22	11.3%
Lawrence	188	39	0	4	0	43	22.9%
Holyoke High	104	1	1	0	2	4	3.8%
MetCalf	83	6	3	2	2	13	15.7%
Kelly	226	30	1	4	0	35	15.5%
Sullivan	226	14	10	2	1	27	11.9%
McMahon	146	20	11	0	1	32	21.9%
Donahue	267	25	5	4	1	35	13.1%
Peck	103	11	1	0	0	12	11.7%
Dean	144	5	9	0	9	23	16.0%
Morgan	157	14	1	7	1	23	14.6%
Total	1838	176	49	26	18	269	14.6%
% of Total		9.6%	2.7%	1.4%	1.0%	14.6%	

Testing and Results

FAILED SAMPLES BY TYPE



Action Plan

Actions Taken

- Consulted with professionals and other Districts that had gone through it
 - Holyoke Department of Public Health
 - Ma DEP and DPH
 - Holyoke Water Works
 - UMass Professor
 - Other school districts
- Communicated with families and staff
 - Press Release
 - 2 letters sent home to families and staff
 - Community meeting
 - Posted ALL results on our website
 - Provided resources on website
- Implemented remediation on all faucets
 - Faucets taken offline
 - Flushing Protocol
 - Hand Wash Only signs

Action Plan

Summary of Corrective Action for Water Testing By School

	Total Samples Taken	Sign	Offline	Flush	Total Fixtures
EN White	194	7	3	4	14
Lawrence	188	20	1	20	41
Holyoke High	104	1	2	0	3
MetCalf	83	4	3	1	8
Kelly	226	19	7	5	31
Sullivan	226	11	2	13	26
McMahon	146	10	9	2	21
Donahue	267	11	13	4	28
Peck	103	8	0	4	12
Dean	144	4	0	11	15
Morgan	157	11	2	3	16
Total	1838	106	42	67	215

What Do Results Mean

- Insight from Public Health and Medical professionals
- The results are higher than state and federal action levels, but not federal regulatory limits.
- Given the age of our buildings, the results are not unexpected. The water system at the school is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. Plumbing systems also contain copper.

****Reminder:** According to MASS DEP, *"the public water supply in MA is among the best in the country, subject to the most stringent standards in the world"*

Next Steps

- Continue to Flush daily and keep logs where flushing is needed
- Ensure students have access to clean water either through flushing or bottled water
- Explore options to conduct further testing
- Continued updates to the community regarding our actions

Q & A



HOLYOKE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A PATHWAY FOR EVERY STUDENT

