



ANOKA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.

Anoka/Washington County Head Start-Early Head Start Program

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June 22, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to let you know that Anoka/Washington County Head Start has received the results from our most recent round of testing for lead in drinking water. This is part of an ongoing effort related to updated Head Start Program Performance Standards 1302.47(b)(1)(iii), which requires school and child care facilities to test for lead in drinking water at least every 5 years and to act when lead is found at levels at or above 5 parts per billion (ppb).

Lead is a toxic heavy metal that has a range of adverse health effects if inhaled or swallowed. Lead rarely occurs naturally in Minnesota's drinking water sources (groundwater or surface water) and typically enters drinking water due to the wearing away of piping, faucets, fixtures and other plumbing materials. While the major source of lead exposure for most Minnesota children is paint, lead in plumbing fixtures can add to a person's overall exposure.

Because lead is tasteless, odorless and colorless in drinking water, testing is the only way to learn whether lead is present. It is important to sample each faucet or water fountain that is used for drinking or food prep because test results can vary between locations.

During recent testing, we collected samples from 20 different water outlets in our buildings (e.g., drinking fountains, classroom faucets, kitchen sinks), results showed that 2 of the 20 samples tested were at or above 5 ppb, the level where action must be taken. Those 2 taps were immediately taken out of service upon receiving the results. We want to ensure families that both of these taps were primarily used for handwashing and cleaning toys and not a drinking source.

Anoka/Washington County Head Start has taken steps to reduce lead exposure in all the fixtures in our centers including but not limited to, cleaning and replacing aerators as needed, and flushing of pipes. As part of the testing process, water samples were taken after the water had been sitting in the pipes, which can increase lead levels temporarily. So, ongoing staff will continue to flush the pipes before use by running the water anytime water has sat in the pipes more than 24 hours. Follow-up testing will also be completed after flushing the pipes to ensure this process decreases lead levels. Anoka Washington County Head Start is committed to implementing additional ongoing strategies to further reduce levels of lead in drinking water.

Lead in drinking water typically represents very low exposure and does not typically require medical intervention or blood lead testing. If a parent has a concern about lead exposure, they should talk to their health care provider to determine if additional steps are needed. The priority is reducing exposure by reducing lead at the tap. Elevated blood lead levels are rarely caused by

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drinking water sources. Exposure to lead paint and dust are the most common causes of elevated blood lead levels.

Our program's lead testing results have been posted to our agency website www.accap.org and can be found by navigating to the 'About Us' tab and clicking on 'Documents'.

We are committed to protecting the health of the children and staff in our program. If you have questions about a lead sample result at a specific tap and actions taken, or if you have concerns, please contact Becky Launer at 763-783-4370. To learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention visit: MDH Lead Program (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/index.html>)

Sincerely,

Head Start Management Team

Lead in drinking water tracking

< means no trace amounts of lead were detected.



Sampling Point	Location ID	Sample Drawn	Sample Tested	Sample Result (ppb)	Planned Remediation
491220	201 FL Drinking Fountain	1/15/26	2/5/26	1.12	
491222	101C 101/102 <u>Craftroom</u>	1/15/26	2/5/26	2.66	
491223	103C 103/104 <u>Craftroom</u>	1/15/26	2/5/26	3.24	
491224	105C 105/106 <u>Craftroom</u>	1/15/26	2/5/26	1.44	
491225	121C 120/121 <u>Craftroom</u>	1/15/26	2/5/26	<	
491226	159 FDC Kitchen Prep Sink	1/16/26	2/5/26	1.17	
491237	200 101 Bathroom	1/15/26	2/5/26	<	
491236	212 111Bathroom	1/15/26	2/5/26	<	
491219	202 FL Bathroom	1/15/26	2/5/26	1.29	
491218	203 FL Youth Room	1/15/26	2/5/26	8.38	
491235	204 111/112 <u>Craftroom</u>	1/21/26	2/5/26	12.7	
491234	205 112 Bathroom	1/15/26	2/5/26	<	
491233	206 109/110 <u>Craftroom</u>	1/15/26	2/5/26	<	
491232	207 110 Bathroom	1/15/26	2/5/26	<	

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Sampling Point	Location ID	Sample Drawn	Sample Tested	Sample Result (ppb)	Planned Remediation
491231	208 CBCR Infant Room	1/14/26	2/5/26	<	
491230	209 CBCR Toddler Room	1/14/26	2/5/26	<	
491229	210 CBCR Kitchen Sink	1/14/26	2/5/26	<	
491228	211 CBFR Preschool Room	1/21/26	2/5/26	<	
491221	502 NP Kitchen	1/14/21	2/5/26	2.76	
491227	803 CBFR Kitchen Sink	1/21/26	2/5/26	<	

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