

December 20, 2017

Dear United Community

In January of 2017, Governor Bruce Rauner signed Senate Bill 0550 requiring all PK-5 schools to test for lead in water used for drinking and cooking. In accordance with this law, United 304 conducted tests on both elementary buildings, but also tested the Junior and Senior High Schools even though it was not mandated. Testing was completed by PDC Labs out of Peoria, IL. All results have been reported to the State Department of Public Health.

Testing involves an initial draw and then a subsequent second draw, allowing the flushing of standing water to get a true measure of lead levels in our water. In the majority of our testing, we were well below the level of mandated reporting. However, the district did note 4 locations where the initial draw was above the 5 micrograms per liter. All other locations tested out as safe. The locations in question are:

North Elementary Kitchen Sink (West) - First Draw -- (2nd Draw was within guidelines)
Junior High Home Economics Sink - SW
Junior High Home Economics Sink - NW
JH Kitchen Double Sink (left) - (2nd Draw was within guidelines)

In response to these results, United 304 is in the process of developing a solution/plan in conjunction with district architect Bill Phillips to address these sites. As part of the solution, the district is flushing these sites every morning and/or taking those sites out of use for the time being. In all likelihood, these sites measured high initially because of their lack of use on a regular basis anyway. None of these sites impacts the day to day workings of our buildings.

For further information regarding lead in drinking water or this testing program, parents can go to <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

If you have any other questions, please contact the United District Office at (309)734-9413.

Sincerely

Jeff Whitsitt
Superintendent