



September 23, 2021

Holy Family Catholic School
1900 St. Clair Avenue
Granite City, IL 62040

Dear Parents, Faculty, and Staff:

Holy Family Catholic School would like to provide information on our efforts to reduce potential exposure to lead from school drinking water by taking steps that included testing for lead in drinking water in our school and sharing the sampling results. Our school has a state required program to reduce potential exposure to lead in drinking water.

Lead is a toxic metal. When children and others are exposed to lead it can have adverse health effects. "Exposure" to lead in drinking water means that children or staff consume water that contains lead through drinking or food preparation. There is no safe level of lead exposure which is why we are working to identify potential sources of Appendix exposure and are communicating actions that can be taken to both reduce lead and protect children and staff.

As part of our program, Holy Family School developed a plan to test for lead in 9 sources which included the drinking water fountains and other outlets where students and staff use water for drinking and cooking. We were assisted by Environmental Consultants LLC. The Illinois Department of Public Health requires lead remediation if the level of lead in drinking water samples is 5ppb or above. The USEPA document titled "Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Child Care Facilities", last updated November 9, 2015, identifies an action level for drinking water collected from a plumbing fixture as 20.0 ppb. **All eighteen (18) samples collected from the selected locations at Holy Family Catholic School reported sample results which were less than the required USEPA action level.** This information can be found under the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations provided by the EPA, CFR 2010 Title 40. (See A and B for Sample Results)

As a precautionary measure, Environmental Consultants LLC recommends cleaning the two hallway water fountains and retesting prior to use by children or staff.

Although no additional samples were identified above the action level, Environmental Consultants LLC recommends that all water sources run for at least thirty seconds prior to use as recommended by the USEPA.



The sampling results of our program and our next steps are as follows:

- On August 3, 2021, we tested 9 fixtures taking 18 samples throughout our School. This included the hallway drinking water fountains, teachers' lounge sink, and all kitchen faucets.
- Sample results show lead was detected at/above the **Illinois** remediation level in 2 fixtures. No lead was detected in 1 fixture. For the remaining 6 fixtures, lead was detected below 3.5ppm. The following results require written notification per the Illinois Senate Bill 550 for samples reported above 5 ppb.

Sample ID 2A EL Hall– Water Fountain 1 - 13.7 ppm

Sample ID 2B EL Hall– Water Fountain 1 - 6.6 ppm

Sample ID 3A EL Hall– Water Fountain 2 - 8.2 ppm

Sample ID 3B EL Hall– Water Fountain 2 - 17.4 ppm

- In response to the sampling results, we plan to replace the 2 fixtures that had lead levels at/above the program remediation level of 5 ppm. **These fixtures were removed from service in December of 2019 due to COVID-19, and will remain as such until they are cleaned and retested or get replaced.**
- For the 7 fixtures that lead was detected below the remediation level, we are implementing routine flushing to further minimize potential exposure.

You can view the detailed sample results and remediation plans at <https://holyfamilyhawks.net/>. Protecting the health and wellbeing of your child(ren) is our top priority and we are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way as we implement our program at Holy Family School.

Sincerely,

Holy Family School Administration

Considerations for Parents: The only way to determine an individual child's lead level is to have the child's blood tested. Please contact your health provider to learn more about blood lead testing. The degree of risk depends on the child's total exposure to lead from all sources in the environment – air, soil, dust, food, paint, consumer products, and water. If you have any immediate concerns or would like to learn more about our program to reduce lead in drinking water, please contact Holy Family School at 618-877-5500.

For Illinois requirements or lead testing guideline <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/illinoislead>. For U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) general information on lead: www.epa.gov/lead. For U.S. EPA information and tools about our 3Ts program on Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities – *Training, Testing and Taking Action*: www.epa.gov/safewater/3ts.

