

Dear Remington Point Elementary Families,

This fall, in light of reports locally and across the nation of lead particles in drinking water, EMS ISD began a districtwide water testing program to analyze school drinking water for the presence of lead. Early test results showed less than 10 problematic water sources scattered among various schools around the district and corrective action has already been taken in each of these isolated locations.

Here at Remington Point Elementary, we are pleased to share that all water samples tested at safe levels as established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Long-term and sustained lead exposure can lead to negative health effects, particularly in children, according to the EPA. Although there is no federal, state, or local mandate for school districts to test their drinking water, EMS ISD is taking proactive measures to test water fountains and sinks in all schools in the interest of student health and safety.

As part of our standard operating procedures, district crews regularly flush, clean, and maintain drinking sources in all of our schools and facilities. In addition, we have several operations team members on staff who have been trained by an accredited lab to conduct proper water sampling.

To date, EMS ISD has tested 24 of its 26 schools. Our trained personnel started with the older schools first, as they were more likely to have older pipes and fittings. Of the 380 samples tested to date from across the district, only nine have tested higher than district standards and EPA levels. Seven of these were hand sinks and two were drinking fountains, and all repairs or corrective actions have been addressed or are currently being addressed.

The remaining schools will be tested in coming weeks with results expected later this spring. We will continue testing until all schools have been formally cleared, and will conduct random sampling annually as part of an ongoing maintenance program. Parents and staff will be notified if any corrective action is needed at their school.

I hope this information about our district's efforts is helpful and reassuring. We care deeply about the health and well-being of our students and staff, and want you know that we are committed to ensuring a safe learning environment for all. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chub Hermilte

Dr. Chaney Curran Principal

Charles Hamilton EMS ISD Director of Maintenance

Additional sources of information regarding the health impacts of lead may be found at:

- <u>City of Fort Worth Department</u>
- <u>Tarrant County Public Health</u>
- Department of State Health Services
- Environmental Protection Agency
- <u>Centers for Disease Control</u>