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SAFETY ALERT

No. 16-01

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER PROGRAM UPDATE

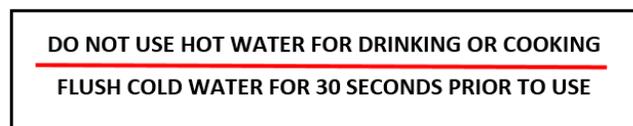
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Lead exposure in children can cause serious health problems, particularly for young children. Even low levels of exposure may affect I.Q., attention span, and growth or cause learning disabilities, hyperactivity, and hearing loss. There are multiple sources of lead exposure such as old paint, leaded gasoline, glazed pottery and drinking water. The District implemented a flushing policy in 1988 to ensure that drinking water in our schools and offices is safe.

Additionally, testing and inspection programs were put into practice at schools to verify compliance with the flushing policy. It is imperative all staff take the necessary steps to maintain access to safe drinking water at every school and office. The current policy states:

"All faucets and drinking fountains that may be used for human consumption or used for food preparation MUST be flushed for a minimum of 30 seconds prior to the first use each day."

In 2008, the Maintenance & Operations Branch (M&O) began surveying all faucets and drinking fountains at schools. Fixtures that are not intended as a drinking water source, such as restroom and classroom sinks, were labeled and exempt from the daily flushing requirement. M&O is currently surveying schools to ensure appropriate signage is in place. The following are examples of signs that you may see installed in schools:



M&O is actively attempting to remove schools from the flushing requirement. They are inspecting schools to ensure signs are in place, collect samples, and provide data to OEHS when ALL drinking water sources and food preparation fixtures are below the District's threshold. OEHS will then evaluate the data and determine whether a site may be exempt from the flushing requirement. Only those schools notified in writing by OEHS are exempted from daily flushing. A list of exempt schools may be found at <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/3956>.

For additional details, refer to [REF-3930.5, "Daily Flushing Requirements for Drinking Fountains and Faucets"](#). For questions regarding signs, contact your Complex Project Manager. Please contact OEHS at (213) 241-3199 or at <http://achieve.lausd.net/oehs> for any other questions.

DISTRIBUTION: All Schools and Offices