

April 3, 2024

Dear Kinawa Families,

Okemos Public Schools remain dedicated to the health and safety of our students and staff, as well as to clear and transparent communication. Before spring break, Kinawa's water was tested for lead and other contaminants in 12 areas as part of our district wide testing plan.

The test results showed that 5 of the areas showed elevated levels of lead. However, no one has been drinking the water from the sinks that tested the highest: the boys locker room shower sink and in Rooms 307, 110 and 107. Those classrooms are science labs. It is not unexpected for water sitting in faucets for long periods to have higher levels of lead. Flushing the water for as little as 30 seconds can greatly reduce the amount of contaminants.

Students have been directed not to drink water from the classroom sinks, but they can be used to wash hands. Handwashing is safe in these sinks, according to the Ingham County Health Department, when hands are fully dried with a towel.

Our district limit for action is 5 ppb – although the goal will always be no detectable lead. The results can be found in the chart below and on our Environmental Testing [website](#).

The Environmental Resources Group, our environmental testing partners, sampled the cafeteria sink, 6 classrooms, 3 filtered bottle fillers, and the main office clinic sink, and men's locker room shower sink.

Kinawa Water Testing Results			
Cafeteria sink	1 ppb	Boys locker room shower room sink	44 ppb
Main office clinic sink	Not detected	Room 104: Hinze (Science Lab)	9 ppb
Bottle filler across from cafeteria	Not detected	Room 110: Diaz (Science Lab)	11 ppb
Bottle filler near staff lounge	Not detected	Room 214: Solce	2 ppb
Bottler filler near 100-105	Not detected	Room 307: Clay (Science Lab)	21 ppb
Room 402: Foods	3 ppb	Room 406: Band room	5 ppb

**John J. Hood**

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*Together...educating with excellence, inspiring each learner for life."*

We have been asking our staff to direct students to drink water only from filtered bottle filling stations throughout the building until further testing is completed. These bottle fillers filter out lead and other contaminants. Signs are posted showing where students should fill their water bottles, and where they should not drink out of faucets.

The district will follow ERG's recommendations to clean faucet aerators and run water for 10 minutes each school day to flush the pipes. Faucet fixtures more than a decade old may have brass fittings that leach lead into the water, particularly when the water has been sitting.

Okemos is working to implement Michigan's Clean Water Drinking Act, known as the "Filter First Legislation," ahead of the state's 2025-26 deadline. The state is finalizing guidance on the legislation, scheduled to be released in late April, which will include a Drinking Water Management Plan template, guidance for filters, and training.


Our commitment to health and safety includes:

- implementing Michigan's Clean Water Drinking Act, known as the "Filter First Legislation" ahead of the state's 2025-26 deadline,
- a continued commitment to providing filtered water stations in each school,
- implementing an annual water testing schedule district-wide, starting with our structures built before 1987 when lead solder was still used to connect copper pipes,
- increased frequency of water testing at any of our buildings undergoing construction, with a focus on those built prior to 1987,
- email of building test results to families,
- building a portal to report testing results on the district [website](#).

We understand concerns from our families and staff, not only those currently at Kinawa, but also alumni of the school, and others in our district. If you have health-related questions, our health team is ready to assist you at 517-706-5008.

The Okemos Public Schools will continue to take all necessary steps to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment that prioritizes the well-being of our students, staff and community. If you have additional questions please contact our Operations Department at 517-706-5039.

Sincerely,



John J. Hood, Superintendent, Okemos Public Schools

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