

WEST FRIENDSHIP ELEMENTARY DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
March 2008

Your school's water is supplied by one or more wells located on school property. The following report is provided by the HCPSS Office of Safety, Environment and Risk Management as a courtesy and is designed to resemble the required annual consumer confidence report provided to consumers by their public water utility/provider informing them about their drinking water. The language used in the report is based on EPA's Guidance document entitled "Preparing Your Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report." Should you have questions or comments, please contact the Office of Safety, Environment and Risk Management at 410-313-6699.

PLEASE NOTE: All sampling results are below Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Standards.

MONITORING OF SCHOOL'S WATER SUPPLY

Below are the following contaminant categories that are regularly monitored to ensure safe drinking water quality.

Contaminant Category	Current Testing Frequency	Currently Tested By	Last Tested (available)
Bacteria	Quarterly	Third Party Water Collector	August 22, 2007
Nitrate	Annually	Third Party Water Collector	January 11, 2007
Metals	Every 3 years	Third Party Water Collector	February 23, 2005
Arsenic	Every 3 years	Third Party Water Collector	January 11, 2007
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) Eg. gasoline and disinfectant by-products	Every 3 years	Maryland Department of the Environment	March 10, 2005
Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) Eg. pesticides	Every 6 years	Maryland Department of the Environment	March 10, 2005
Lead and Copper (L&C)	Every 3 years	HCPSS Certified Water Sampler	February 15, 2008

DEFINITIONS

Parts Per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/l) = a unit used to denote concentration of chemicals or other substances. The unit implies a part of something in one million parts of water or other substances. The following comparisons help in putting this concentration in perspective; 1 inch in 16 miles, 1 cent in \$10,000 or 1 drop in 60 quarts of liquid.

Parts Per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/l) = a unit used to denote concentration of chemicals or other substances. The unit implies a part of something in one billion parts of water or other substances. The following comparisons help in putting this concentration in perspective; 1 inch in 16,000 miles, 1 cent in \$10,000,000 or 1 drop in 60,000 quarts of liquid.

Action Level (AL)= the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements the water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) = the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) = the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Please note that a public notification is required when a standard is violated and is issued by the Office of Safety, Environment and Risk Management.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or man-made. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Standards are set at very stringent levels for health effects and incorporate a margin of safety. Current standards are designed to protect children and adults. The standards take into account the potential effects of contaminants on segments of the population that are most at risk. The MCL is based on drinking 2- liters every day at the MCL level for a lifetime (70 years) to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS (per most recent test) – if a category and/or contaminant is not listed below it means it was not detected during the last test available.

Contaminant	Category	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	AL	Potential Sources	Potential Health Effects (consuming in excess of MCL)
Nitrate	Nitrate	3.58 mg/l	10 mg/l	10 mg/l	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic; erosion of natural deposits	Infants below age 6 months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.
Barium	Metals	0.15 mg/l	2 mg/l	2 mg/l	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits: discharge from metal refineries	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.
*Copper	L&C	1.7 mg/l	N/A	N/A	1.3 mg/l 90th percentile	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	Copper is an essential nutrient (recommended daily allowance is 2 mg), but some people who drink water in excess of AL over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Chronic exposure could cause liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

* The school's corrosion control treatment system was not operating at its optimal level at the time of sampling. Our plumbing personnel who are certified water treatment operators will adjust the system to once again achieve acceptable results. The school system will continue to sample until the treatment system is optimized so that copper levels are below the action level. Copper levels over the action level do not require public notification.