

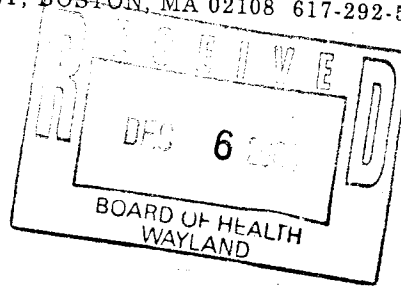


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ONE WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108 617-292-5500

MITT ROMNEY  
 Governor

KERRY HEALEY  
 Lieutenant Governor



ELLEN ROY HERZFELDER  
 Secretary

ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, Jr.  
 Commissioner

Superintendent of Schools  
 Wayland School District  
 41 Cochituate Road  
 Wayland, MA 01778-2018

Re: City/Town: Wayland  
 Date: December 2, 2004  
 Program: Lead/Copper in School Drinking Water

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**This letter is a clarification/correction to our letter dated November 23, 2004**

Dear Superintendent Burton,

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program (DEP) has reviewed the "Lead Maintenance Checklist" and the lead drinking water results for the schools in your district. Based on this review the DEP has determined that the schools listed on Table A **contain lead and copper levels that are in excess of the DEP action level for lead and copper in school drinking water.** The DEP action level for lead in school drinking water is 0.015 mg/L, which is more stringent and protective than the federal lead action level. The DEP action level for copper in school drinking water is 1.3 mg/L, the same as the federal action level.

If the schools listed on Table A were public water systems, the federal and state drinking water regulations would require them to reduce the lead and/or copper in the drinking water to less than the action levels. Also, you would have been required to provide a notice to all consumers of the water that includes specific language concerning the source(s) and potential health risk of lead and copper.<sup>1</sup>

**While the schools noted on Table A are not public water systems with their own source of drinking water, the DEP strongly recommends that you reduce the levels of lead and copper below the lead and copper action levels and notify persons drinking the water of what has occurred and what you are doing to reduce the noted lead and copper levels.** DEP also encourages you to use its documents

<sup>1</sup> The following information is required for public water systems: "Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. Sources of lead and copper in drinking water include corrosion of household plumbing systems".

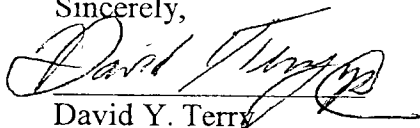
titled "*Recommended Remediation Actions to Reduce or Eliminate Lead Exposure from Drinking Water in Schools*" and "*Copper and Your Health*" located at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/Lead.htm> to immediately address the identified lead or copper levels. This webpage also includes a draft notice that can be adapted to provide information to the consumers of water at the schools about what has occurred and what you are doing to address the issue.

If you need technical assistance in eliminating or reducing the levels of lead and copper at your schools you may contact your local Water Department, Board of Health, or plumbing inspector.

I would appreciate it if you would complete Table A of this letter and use it to inform us **by December 30, 2004** of any action(s) you have taken to resolve this issue. Also please complete and return an updated "*Lead Maintenance Checklist*" for each of the schools listed on Table A. A copy of the "*Lead Maintenance Checklist*" is attached for you use. All responses should be sent to the DEP/DWP, 6th floor, 1 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108. Attention: Frank Niles.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Frank Niles at 617-574- 6871 or by email at [Frank.R.Niles@state.ma.us](mailto:Frank.R.Niles@state.ma.us) or Ms. Yvette DePeiza at 617-292-5857 or by email at [Yvette.depeiza@state.ma.us](mailto:Yvette.depeiza@state.ma.us).

Sincerely,



David Y. Terry  
Program Director  
DEP/BRP/Drinking Water Program

#### Attachments

- 1) Lead Maintenance Checklist
- 2) Report from Wayland Water Department

#### CC:

Joseph T. Madden, Jr. Facilities Manager Wayland Public Schools w/attachments  
School Principals w/o attachment  
Chief Elected Official w/o attachment  
DOE, Ms Andrea Ranger w/o attachment  
DPH, Ms. Elaine Krueger w/o attachment  
EPA, Ms Beth Deabay w/o attachment  
Local Board of Health w/o attachment  
Local Plumbing Inspector w/o attachment  
Public Water System w/o attachment  
DWP E-file  
Y/dwparchive/Wayland/3315000/LCCR 12-2-2004

**TABLE A**  
**Summary of results and actions taken by the school**

City/Town: Wayland  
 Wayland School Department

Name of school	Location of sample	Lead results in mg/L *	Copper Results in mg/L *	Check (✓) all applicable actions for each location in the columns below					Posted notice on faucet to prevent drinking/cooking	Other Actions (Please specify below)
				Notice provided to consumers (Provide date(s) of notice(s))	Daily Flushing	Re-sampled location. location is now below action level (Attach results)	Physically disconnected faucet from plumbing	Replaced plumbing and/or fixture		
Middle	Hall by Room 318		1.6							
Middle	Hall across from Cafeteria		1.4							
Middle	Boys Locker Room		1.4							
Middle	Kitchen	0.029								
Locker	Upper Hall Room 13	0.067	1.4							
Happy Hollow	By Basement Room		2.4							
Happy Hollow	By Gym	0.099	3.3							
Happy Hollow	Kitchen Hall by Boys		3.6							
Happy Hollow	By Room 1	0.027	2.6							

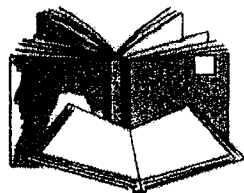
Other Comments:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this page by **December 30, 2004** to the DEP/DWFP, 6th floor, 1 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108. Attention: Frank Niles.  
 See enclosed report from Wayland Water Department dated September 23, 2004

December 6, 2004

To All School Parents and Staff:



*Wayland*

public schools

P.O. Box 408  
41 Cochituate Road  
Wayland, Massachusetts 01778-0408  
(508) 358-7728  
FAX: (508) 358-7708

Recently, school districts across the Commonwealth were instructed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to collect water samples to be tested for levels of lead and copper. Last week we received the results of our tests and were notified that samples from some water fountains and faucets in three of our schools (Loker, Happy Hollow, and the Middle School) have lead and copper levels that exceed the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's action levels. These levels are set very low (for lead it's 15 parts per billion and for copper, 1.3 parts per million); still, the administration takes these results seriously and is moving immediately to correct this condition and safeguard the health of the students and staff.

We know for certain that the water coming into our five schools and The Children's Way is safe and suspect that the recent test results are due to older pipes and fixtures in the three afore-mentioned school buildings. Meetings are taking place with officials from the D.E.P. and the town to develop an appropriate remediation action plan. There is a high level of cooperation between these officials and this will help us resolve this problem quickly.

***What we are doing:***

1. Implementing a public information and notification process that includes distribution of the attached materials regarding lead and copper in our drinking water. Please read them carefully, as they should answer many of your questions.
2. Immediately implemented a flushing and water usage plan to safeguard against lead and copper exposure in school. This includes removing or shutting off those water fountains and faucets at Loker, Happy Hollow, and the Middle School that yielded lead and copper levels above DEP thresholds.
3. Conducting follow-up water testing so that an action plan, if necessary, can be developed, approved by the D.E.P., and implemented. These tests are already underway.

***What we will do:***

1. The school administration, with assistance from the DEP and the Wayland Water Department, will put into place a corrective action plan as quickly as possible and will conduct follow-up tests to ensure water quality and safety. This will involve having a survey conducted by a professional hygienist to determine whether lead or copper is present elsewhere within our district's plumbing/water distribution system.
2. We will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts through periodic reports. These will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard everyone's general health.

The water system in our schools is not unlike that found in many area houses, and our water test results are not completely unexpected. Similar conditions may well

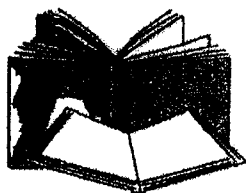
Gary A. Burton, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
(508) 358-3774

Wayne R. Ogden  
Assistant Superintendent  
(508) 358-3772

Doris E. Goldthwaite, Ph.D.  
Director of Student Services  
(508) 358-3756

Joy E. Buhler  
Business Administrator  
(508) 358-3750

exist in your own home. It is well advised to have your home water tested periodically if you are using a private well. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e. if you pay a water bill), you can call the local water department for this information (508-358-3696).



*Wayland*  
public schools

In closing, the intent of this letter is to properly inform you of these recent test results and assure you that the health and safety of all who study and work within our schools, or simply visit them, is of paramount concern to school and town officials. I do not believe that there is any reason to become overly alarmed, as school and town officials are moving quickly to correct known problems and to determine if others exist. Awareness about the dangers of elevated lead and copper levels within our drinking water is clearly in your best interest, and education is the best defense against being unnecessarily exposed to this health hazard. For this reason, the attached print materials should be read, and, when appropriate, discussed with your children.

As additional information become available, it will be passed along to you in a timely manner. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your building principal or me, and we will be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Burton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gary A. Burton  
Superintendent of Schools

GAB/dmm

Attachment

Cc: School Committee  
Wayland Water Department  
Wayland Board of Health  
Massachusetts DEP

*For additional information on this and other health related topics, readers are directed to the Wayland Water Dept. and the D.E.P. web pages located at [waylandwater.com](http://waylandwater.com) and <http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/lead.htm>.*