

DONOVAN
COMMUNITY UNIT NO. 3 SCHOOLS

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November 5, 2018

Dear Donovan Junior – Senior HS Parents/Guardians,

The administration has received a notice from the Village of Donovan concerning lead in the Village's drinking water. A copy of that notice is attached to this letter.

The District will follow all of the steps indicated in the Village's notice to reduce lead exposure in our building's drinking water. In addition, we will institute a daily flush cycle of the HS building water outlets (sinks and water fountains). Also, students may bring in bottled water to drink. The bottled water must conform to our water bottle rules (no larger than 20 ounces, clear container and water only). These water bottle conditions will be in effect until further notice.

The District will cooperate with the Village fully in this matter. We appreciate the Village informing us as they did. We will keep all parents/guardians aware of any further developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen G. Westrick'.

Stephen G. Westrick
Superintendent

Copies: Donovan Jr./Sr. HS Faculty and Staff
Village of Donovan

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Village of Donovan found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and under. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. **Infants that drink formula prepared with lead-contaminated water are at a greater risk because of the large volume of water they drink relative to their body size.** Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. However, lead can be in some soil, dust, and certain types of pottery, pewter, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

The Village of Donovan does have lead joint piping in water mains in the street. When water is in contact with pipes, brass faucets, fittings, valves and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead, even "lead-free" plumbing may contain some lead.

EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Don't forget about other sources of lead such as lead paint, lead dust and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

Steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead in your water

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water from your kitchen tap or whatever tap you use for drinking and cooking for at least 3 minutes and it becomes cold

or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This will help flush lead-containing water from the pipes. In order to conserve water, you can fill multiple containers after flushing for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.

• Bottled drinking water should be used by pregnant women, breast-feeding women, young children, and formula-fed infants at homes where lead has been detected at levels greater than 15 ppb.

- Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Do not boil your water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1(800) NSF16 8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.
- Call us at number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. As of June 19, 1986, new or replaced water serviced lines and new household plumbing materials could not contain more than 8% lead. Lead content was further reduced on January 4, 2014, when plumbing materials must now be certified as "lead-free" to be used (weighted average of wetted surface cannot be more than 0.25% lead). Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

Ken at 815-486-7049

Water will be tested at the lab listed below for \$15.00 plus postage. All samples which are not sent by the village are charged at \$75.00 plus postage. The village will send samples on the residents behalf.

PDC Laboratories, INC.

2231 W Altorfer Dr.

Peoria, IL. 61615

What happened? What is being done?

- The high levels were discovered on the routine water sample collection throughout town.
- The Village of Donovan is currently investigating main water piping replacement throughout town.

For more information

- Call Ken at 815-486-7049. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead , call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

This notice is being sent to you by The Village of Donovan. State Water System ID#: 0750400

Date distributed: 11/2/18