

NOTICE OF TAP WATER RESULTS LEAD AND COPPER RULE SAMPLING PROGRAM SCHOOL RESULTS

For Schools that are not a MassDEP registered public water system

Please note: the LCR program for public water systems is not the Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA)¹ program for schools or Early Education and Care (EEC) childcare facility for evaluating lead and copper in drinking water. MassDEP encourage you to use these LCR results to enhance your LCCA program. For assistance with your LCCA program please see the MassDEP Drinking Water Program contact information listed in the Information section below.

School/Childcare Facility Name: Gardner Middle School

Date: 09/17/2025

Sampling Address: 297 Catherine St

Date Samples Collected: 09/04/2025

Copy of analytical report attached: Yes No

Dear School Superintendent:

Thank you for your participation in the Gardner Water Department and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) public water system sampling program.

The lead and copper levels in the water samples we collected at your school for the period specified above are:

Location*	Result in milligrams per liter(mg/L)	Result is <u>Above</u> the LCR Lead or <u>Copper</u> Action Level	Result is <u>At or Below</u> the LCR Lead or <u>Copper</u> Action Level
Bubbler	LEAD: ND mg/L	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	COPPER: 0.005 mg/L	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kitchen Sink	LEAD: ND mg/L	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	COPPER: 0.075 mg/L	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The school should provide the PWS with sample location information using MassDEP recommended LCCA fixture location code (Org. Code - Location Code - Location Type - Location Name) e.g. 99999999-010-DW-Second Floor Bubbler near RM 210². For more information see <https://www.mass.gov/guides/sampling-for-lead-and-copper-at-schools-and-childcare-facilities#-how-to-label-taps->*

Exceeding a LCR Action Level is not a violation of the LCR but actions should be taken to address the elevated level. If your school copper results are above the Copper Action Level or your lead results are above the lowest possible lead concentration as recommended by the LCCA, follow the MassDEP guidance in the document titled “Follow-up Steps for Schools or Childcare Facilities Based on Lead and Copper Sampling Results” located at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/follow-up-steps-for-schools-and-eccf-with-lead-and-copper-sampling-results-above-the-action>. For assistance, contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at the email or phone number listed below.

Use the USEPA guide listed below to establish routine practices to reduce exposure to elevated lead levels, including the following:

- Regularly flush all water outlets used for drinking, food preparation or medical uses, particularly after weekends and long vacations when water may have been stagnant for a long period of time.
- Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking. Never boil water to remove lead. Boiling water may concentrate lead.
- If Point of Use (POU) treatment devices are installed, make sure they are maintained. An example of a POU device is a filter on a faucet or within a drinking water fountain or water bottle filler.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/epalccapamphlet1989.pdf>

² For information on how to assign identification for a LCCA tap is located in the Set up an LCCA Program at your School at <https://www.mass.gov/assistance-program-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water>

- These routine practices may also be applicable for copper.

Copper: The LCR Action Level for Copper is 1.3 mg/l and the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)³ is also 1.3 mg/l. When copper is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through service line or internal pipes or plumbing in buildings with copper and brass parts. *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.*

Lead: The LCR Action Level for Lead is 0.015 mg/l and the MCLG is zero. When lead is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through service lines or internal pipes or plumbing in buildings with lead pipes or plumbing with lead solder or brass. *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.* Because lead may pose serious health risks, both the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that “there is no known safe level of lead in a child’s blood”⁴, therefore MassDEP, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) recommend that water from taps/fixtures used for drinking, food preparation and medical uses in schools or EECF contain no measurable level of lead and that testing of school drinking water should be conducted by a Massachusetts certified laboratory capable of measuring concentrations of 1 ppb (ug/L) or lower.

For More Information:

MassDEP Lead and Copper in drinking water:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/is-there-lead-in-my-tap-water>

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/copper-and-your-health>

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/contaminants#lead->

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/12/11/pouompbcutips.pdf>

MassDEP Drinking Water Program Contact: program-director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770

MDPH Lead and Copper in Drinking Water FAQ and Quick Facts:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/sources-of-lead-besides-lead-paint>

<https://www.mass.gov/media/1571266/>

<https://www.mass.gov/media/1571251/>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm>

USEPA

Basic information about lead in drinking water: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

3Ts guide for reducing lead in drinking water in schools <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water-schools-and-child-care-facilities>

Guide to Establishing routine practices:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018/09/documents/module_6_establishing_routine_practices_508.pdf

If you have any questions regarding lead or copper in drinking water or your sampling results, please contact: **Timothy Michaud at (978-630-8791) and (timothy.michaud@veolia.com)**

Sincerely,

Gardner Water Department

PWSID #: 2103000

cc: MassDEP Regional Office

³ The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is 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. The Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>