DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. NAVAL AIR FACILITY
ATSUGI, JAPAN
FPO AP 96306-1209

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Ser N4-PRA4/0994
18 Sep 14

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Air Facility Atsugi
To: Parents and Staff of Shirley Lanham Elementary School, Child Development Center, and Outdoor Pool

Subj: LEAD TESTING IN PRIORITY AREAS NOTIFICATION

1. As my previous correspondence dated August 22, 2014 indicated, the Navy has issued new policy that aligns installations with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommendation to sample for lead in drinking water at schools, youth program sites and childcare facilities. Lead in drinking water may come from existing plumbing inside buildings including fixtures, solder, water coolers or water faucets.

2. The purpose of this notification is to inform you of the latest results of drinking water testing at Shirley Lanham Elementary School (SLES), the Child Development Center (CDC), and at youth program sites and our plan moving forward.

3. For background, we conducted initial testing on June 30, 2014. Of the 410 drinking water outlets sampled at U.S. Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, seven had lead concentrations greater than the established EPA guidance level of 20 parts per billion (ppb). The 20 ppb threshold is a guidance level designated by the EPA to prompt additional testing and corrective measures.

4. After receiving these results, we took the following immediate actions:

a. The seven locations that exceeded the EPA guidance level were removed from service. All other drinking water sources at these facilities remain safe for consumption.

b. The two drinking water fountains without chilled water at SLES were permanently removed from service since they were rarely used and considered not required by the school staff.

c. We performed confirmation sampling of the five remaining faucets on August 20, 2014. Of the five drinking water locations retested, three again reported above the action level for lead and require corrective measures. The test results indicate the fixtures

themselves are the most likely source of the lead. We are currently coordinating the replacement of these three fixtures located at:

(1) Child Development Center, outside faucet

(2) Shirley Lanham Elementary School, Room 116 faucet

(3) Outdoor Pool, male bathroom faucet

d. Once the fixtures have been replaced, we will retest them to ensure that lead levels are below the EPA recommended levels.

5. A copy of the resampling results is available at the front office of SLES and the CDC.

Here are some additional resources you may find informative:

a. EPA Website (Drinking Water in Schools and Childcare Facilities) at:
http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/schools_index.cfm

b. NAF Atsugi Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) / Additional Testing Result:
http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrj/installations/naf_atsugi/about/departments/public_works/N45.html

c. EPA Website (Secondary Drinking Water Regulations):
http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/secondarystandards.cfm

6. If you have questions, please call your Public Affairs Office (PAO) at DSN (315)264-4452.

7. We are committed to updating you every step of the way and will continue to ensure the safety and wellness of your children.

Sincerely,

J. F. BUSHEY
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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August 22, 2014

Dear Parents and Staff,

The Navy has issued new policy requiring testing of drinking water every five years to ensure our children are protected. The policy aligns with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommendation to sample for lead in drinking water at schools, youth program sites and childcare facilities. The purpose of this notification is to inform you of the results of drinking water testing at NAF Atsugi.

On 18 Aug 2014, NAF ATSUGI received the results of drinking water testing recently conducted to ensure the safety of children in school, Teen and Youth Centers and Child Development Centers. Of **410** drinking water outlets tested in NAF Atsugi, **7** were reported higher than the 20 parts per billion (ppb) EPA guidance level for lead. To put that into perspective, one part per billion is equal to one drop of water in an Olympic-size swimming pool. The 20 ppb is a guidance level designated by the EPA to take action with additional testing and corrective measures. Lead in drinking water may come from the existing plumbing inside buildings including fittings, solder, water coolers or water faucets.

After receiving these results, we took immediate action:

- Locations that exceeded the EPA guidance level on the first test have been removed from service.
- We conducted follow-up sampling to identify the source of the lead. The results of the follow-up sampling will be available in four weeks.
- If the follow-up sampling results are above the EPA guidance level, corrective actions will be taken to remediate the source of the elevated lead level.

A copy of the test results is attached, which list the sampling locations, results and type of the water outlet (cooler, bubbler or faucet).

Please refer to the Fact Sheet accompanying this letter for additional information.

Here are additional resources you may find informative:

EPA Website (Drinking Water in Schools and Childcare Facilities)
http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/schools_index.cfm

NAF Atsugi Consumer Confidence Report/Additional Testing Results
http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrj/installations/naf_atsugi/about/departments/public_works/N45.html

Testing results, updates, and actions necessary to address any concerns will be available on our website as well as at the front desk of Shirley Lanham Elementary School and childcare facilities by approximately 30 Sep 2014.

In summary, the drinking water on Atsugi is safe. Continual and proactive testing and procedures ensure that the NAF Atsugi water supply and water distribution system is, and will remain safe. I am committed to updating you every step of the way and will continue to ensure the safety and wellness of your children.

If you have questions, please visit our website, or call 264-4452.

Sincerely,

J. F. BUSHEY

SAFE DRINKING WATER – CHECKING FOR LEAD

The United States Navy is committed to protecting the health of their Sailors, civilian staff, and their families by providing safe drinking water. Drinking water quality, including testing for lead, is monitored throughout the installation. It is Navy policy to follow Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) optional guidelines for testing and sampling of water outlets from which children may drink at childcare centers, hospital pediatric wards, and maternity wards.

WHAT IS NAF ATSUGI INSTALLATION DOING?

- NAF ATSUGI installation tests water from sinks, faucets, fountains, and hose bibs at Child Development Centers (CDCs), Youth and Teen Centers, and playground areas.
- Test results will be made available at locations where testing was conducted.
- This is an ongoing program that will include yearly updates and complete retesting every five years.

WHAT IS LEAD?

- Lead is a naturally occurring metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed.
- Lead can be found in air, soil, dust, food, and water, and is common in plumbing materials and water service lines.
- Exposure to elevated levels of lead can result in adverse health effects.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH RISKS OF LEAD EXPOSURE?

- Lead poses a significant health risk to young children up to the age of six, especially infants and fetuses, where the danger is very severe.
- Growing children absorb lead more rapidly and are negatively impacted by a level of lead exposure that would have little effect on an adult.
- A child's mental and physical development can be irreversibly impaired by over-exposure to lead.
- EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total lead exposure.
- Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40% to 60% of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

HOW DOES LEAD GET INTO A FACILITY'S DRINKING WATER?

- Even though drinking water from water treatment plants may meet federal, state, local and overseas standards, a facility may still encounter elevated lead levels at the outlet or spigot due to lead in plumbing materials.
- The most common cause is corrosion of materials containing lead in the water distribution system, such as plumbing pipes, solder, water coolers, and faucets.
- Many factors contribute to corrosion, including the acidity of the water, and when water stands in the plumbing system for prolonged periods of time.

HOW MUCH LEAD IN DRINKING WATER IS TOO MUCH?

- EPA set a guidance level of 20 ppb in childcare settings to protect children who are exposed to lead in drinking water on a chronic basis.
- EPA recommends that childcare facilities collect first-draw samples from water fountains and outlets, which maximizes the likelihood that the highest concentrations of lead are found because water remained in plumbing overnight.
- When sampling results show lead levels exceeding 20 ppb, those fountains and outlets are taken out of service until remediation is complete.

WHAT IS REMEDIATION?

- Remediation refers to both short- and long-term actions taken to reduce the levels of lead in drinking water if test results indicate that there is a lead issue at a childcare facility.
- EPA's childcare facility sampling protocol was designed to identify specific fountains and faucets that require remediation, such as water cooler replacement.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

- Contact your family doctor or pediatrician who can perform blood tests for lead.
- NAF ATSUGI Installation Water Program Manager at 264-4141 can provide you with information about your facility's water supply.
- More information on the health effects of lead can be found on EPA's website at http://www2.epa.gov/lead.