

Capitol Hill Montessori @ Logan  
215 G Street, NE  
Washington DC 20002

April 26, 2016

Dear Capitol Hill Montessori @ Logan School Community,

At CHM@L, we highly value and are committed to fostering a learning environment where students feel safe and secure. We also want to clearly communicate with parents about safety issues when they arise. Many of you have voiced concerns regarding the water supply at our school and I want to inform you of what's being done to address them, including onsite student testing.

Background:

The Department of General Services (DGS) has been conducting water tests of all drinking sources in all District of Columbia Public schools since 2007. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidance in the Drinking Water Best Management Practices for Municipal Water Systems recommends that schools and child care facilities take action if water samples from any drinking water outlet yield test results that are not within EPA's recommended range. You can learn more about the national standards for water safety at schools on the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-drinking-water-schools-and-child-care-facilities>. Additionally, the Washington Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) provides many services to District residents. Please see this letter from DC Water's General Manager to learn more: <https://www.dewater.com/lead/LetterToCustomers.cfm>.

How Testing is Done:

DGS hires a third-party contractor to conduct its annual testing. When water is tested at a school, water samples are collected from every drinking water source in the building. DGS' testing protocol includes entering buildings very early in the morning to ensure that the water system has not been used at least 8 hours prior to testing. The tester is accompanied by a custodian so that all drinking water sources are identified. On the day of testing, the Certified Drinking Water Sampler arrives early to the location to collect two separate samples from each device, which are then delivered to the lab for analysis. If an elevated level of lead or any other unsafe substance is found, steps are taken immediately to make sure students don't drink the

Brandon Eatman  
Principal

Yolanda Nashid  
Assistant Principal

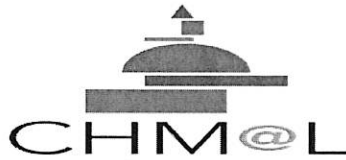
Marsena Hall  
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[www.capitolhillmontessorischool.org](http://www.capitolhillmontessorischool.org)

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water, and then DGS works as quickly as possible to fix the issue. This could include installing filters or replacing equipment. After the issue is fixed, additional water samples are tested to make sure that the results fall within acceptable ranges. The results of these water tests are posted on Department of General Services website, and in the future, DGS will make sure the results of all follow up tests are posted, too. ( <http://dgs.dc.gov/page/water-sampling-results-district-schools> )

Revisions to DGS Water Testing Protocols:

DGS is revising its protocol and will implement the following changes:

- All water sources in all DCPS will be given a unique serial number and tested (schedule to be released soon)
- All sources that exceed EPA's recommended levels will be disconnected and clearly labeled with "Do not drink" signage. These devices will not be put back into operation until retested levels fall below the EPA's recommended levels.
- All results and re-test results will be posted on the DGS website in clear language and formatting.
- Parents will receive notification for all sources that test exceed EPA's recommended levels, along with information on actions taken to resolve.

Onsite Student Lead Testing:

We understand that some of you may have lingering concerns. You should feel free to contact your child's pediatrician to request a lead test and discuss any other concerns you may have about your child's health. However, DCPS will also partner with the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) to offer lead testing at school for students whose parents request it. The lead testing that DCPS is offering through DOEE involves a pin-prick to the child's finger with same-day results shared with you onsite. Testing will be offered at our school on:

Wednesday, April 27 and Wednesday, May 4 between the hours of 7am-9am and 3pm-5pm. If you are interested in making an appointment, you may sign up by calling the main number at (202) 698-4467 or stopping by the front office. In order to receive the testing, your child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have a signed consent form which will be available onsite during the testing.

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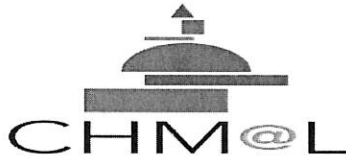
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I also want to assure you that the safety of all Capitol Hill Montessori @ Logan School students is our top priority—just as it is with you—and we remain committed to ensuring that your children are safe. If you have any additional questions or concerns about this, please contact [SchoolLeadQuestions@dc.gov](mailto:SchoolLeadQuestions@dc.gov) or 202.442.5559. Again, if you have any serious concerns about your child's health, please contact your pediatrician.

Thank you again for your cooperation and continued support.

Sincerely,

Brandon Eatman

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