



GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEADERSHIP ♦ SERVICE ♦ INNOVATION *Partnering for success!*

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www.geneseeisd.org

January 28, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Genesee Early College providing a safe and secure environment that ensures learning for your student is our top priority. As we all continue to navigate the Flint water crisis, Genesee Early College would like to bring you up to date on the following areas:

Drinking water on campus:

The University of Michigan-Flint has taken all necessary measures to ensure drinking water on campus—in all facilities including classrooms, residence halls, childcare, and cooking facilities—is safe, filtered, and regularly tested. Water filters have been installed across campus and the University continues quarterly water testing. The most recent tests were in October 2015, which found the water filters installed across campus are working and that campus water is safe. Additional University communications and related links are available on the UMFlint website: www.umflint.edu

Students are allowed to bring water bottles into classrooms. During breaks, between classes and lunch, students may obtain filtered water from the William S. White Building concession stand (1st floor lobby), hydration stations, and beverage vending machines. Given the national attention to the Flint water crisis, and the outpouring of donations, individual water bottles will be delivered to our program regularly for student and staff use.

Updates and Communication:

The Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) will be sending out regular communications to ensure that you have the most up-to-date information on our efforts, in collaboration with University of Michigan-Flint. Resources will continue to be added to the GISD website. Please check for updated news and resources at www.geneseeisd.org

We know that some of our students, who use Flint water at home, have already been receiving information about water distribution centers and resources available. If parents or students observe changes in behavior, or physical conditions, please contact your primary care physician.

We continue to rely on guidance from the Genesee County Health Department and the health care community, to keep current with the most impactful practices. We have printed a document from the Health Department for your information. Many valuable lead resources can be found on the main page of the Genesee County Health Department website at www.gchd.us.

Volunteering and donations are being accepted through the American Red Cross.

Again, we are working closely with University of Michigan Flint to ensure all students have quality drinking water. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to call the school office at (810) 591-5115.

Sincerely,

Lynnette Pepler
Dean of Students

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Frequently Asked Questions About Lead in Flint Water



- Lead is hard to avoid completely. It can be found in old paint, water pipes and brass water faucets, in dirt, at some job sites, and in metal used for some hobbies.
- The amount of lead found in some Flint homes' drinking water could affect kids' health.
 - Even small amounts of lead can harm kids' health because they are little and still growing.
 - Adults are less likely to be harmed by the levels found in the water.
- Filter your drinking water using a NSF-approved filter.
 - Find a NSF-approved filter at http://www.gchd.us/docs/lead_filter_information.pdf.
 - If you use City of Flint water, you can call 211 to find out where you can pick up a free water filter.
- Some filters can remove up to 99% of the lead in water when used properly. To be sure your filter is removing as much lead as it can, carefully follow the instructions that came with it.
 - Change the filter cartridge as often as you should.
 - Run only cold water through the filter.
- Even after changes to the water system, it may take a while before lead levels in your home's water drop. Use the tips below to know when it's best to use filtered water:

Lead in Water

Although your water may be a different color sometimes, it is not caused by lead. It's important to remember:

- You can't see, smell, or taste lead in water.
- Lead won't change the color of your water.
- The only way to know what your home's lead levels are is by having your water tested in a lab.

Please call the Flint Water Department at 810-787-6537 to request a free or low-cost water test.

In The Kitchen



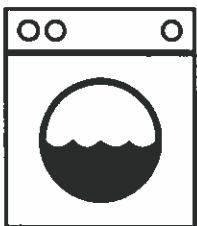
Use filtered tap water for:

- Drinking (including making coffee, drink mixes, juice, baby formula)
- Cooking (even if you boil the water, the lead will stay in the water and food)
- Washing fruits and vegetables

You can use unfiltered tap water for:

- Washing your hands
- Washing dishes
- Wiping down countertops

Cleaning



You can use unfiltered tap water for:

- Mopping floors
- Washing clothes

Your washing machine and dryer won't put lead from the water into the air of your home.

In the Bathroom



Use filtered tap water for:

- Brushing kids' teeth

You can use unfiltered tap water for:

- Showers
- Baths (don't let kids drink the water as they play in the tub)
- Brushing your teeth (if you are an adult)

Lead will not cause rashes or other skin problems. However, if chlorine levels or other cleaners are high in the water, it may cause itchy or dry skin (similar to what can happen when you swim in a pool).

Caring for Pets



Use filtered tap water for:

- Pets' water bowls

You can use unfiltered tap water for:

- Baths

If you notice your pet acting differently than normal, please contact your vet.

Other Sources of Lead in Your Home



Lead Paint

- Homes built before 1978 likely have lead paint, both inside and outside.
- Old paint is the most common way that kids are exposed to lead.



Dirt

- If you live in the city, there may be lead in the dirt outside your home.
- Before 1996, gas and the exhaust from cars contained lead. More lead will be found in dirt in busy traffic areas.



Dust

- The dust in your home can contain tiny amounts of both the paint and the dirt that contain lead.



Hobbies & Jobs

- Solder, fishing sinkers, bullets, and stained glass framing materials are some of the items in your home that may contain lead. You could also track home lead dust from your job site.

Have Questions?

For more information about protecting yourself and your family from lead, please visit:

www.michigan.gov/lead

Or you can call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at:

1-800-648-6942

The staff at this number will help direct you to the best department that can answer your questions about lead in your home.

To request a free or low-cost water test, please call the Flint Water Department at:

1-810-787-6537

To find out if you can get a free water filter, please call 211.