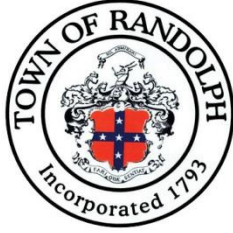


Gerard F. Cody, REHS / RS  
**Public Health Commissioner**

Ann Martin, RN / MSN  
**Public Health Nurse**

Carol Cronin  
**Principal Clerk**

Peggy Montlouis, MBA  
**Community Health Educator**



## **RANDOLPH PUBLIC HEALTH**

41 South Main Street  
Randolph, MA 02368  
MAIN TEL: 781-961-0924  
[www.TownofRandolph.com](http://www.TownofRandolph.com)

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Dov Yoffe, BS, BSN, RN **Chair**  
Dr. David Kaplan, MPH / Ph.D / CHO / RS  
Barbara Mahoney, RN / MHA  
Patricia M. Cedeño-Zamor, Ph.D/MSW/MHA  
Sharon E. George, CCHW

### Lead has been detected in water test at Randolph High School and the JFK School

**December 28, 2023** – In July, Randolph Public School Facilities and Randolph Water Department have collaborated on a school water testing program to determine if lead can be detected in plumbing fixtures. Today, the Randolph Public Health Department learned that four water samples detected lead, however, the sample results did not exceed the regulatory limit.

Over the summer break, water samples were collected from all of the Randolph Public Schools. Four of the water samples tested positive for lead. Two positive samples were from the High School and Two positive samples were taken from the JFK school. The lab results are at or above the recommended 0.001 mg/l lead level for lead in water at schools, however, it is not an exceedance of the regulatory limit of 0.015 mg/l for lead in drinking water. This is NOT an exceedance. All other samples did not detect lead in the water. Sample results from the Middle School, Donovan School and Martin Young Schools all were below the regulatory limit for lead.

Due to the age of some plumbing fixtures, lead may be present in various parts of the plumbing system such as lead solder, brass and fixtures and is absorbed by the water passing through the plumbing system. *“What we know now is that the water coming into the building from the main source does not contain lead in excess of the regulatory limit. The four water fixtures that detected lead in the water sample are now taken out of service by the Public Facilities Department. Control measures, once implemented should achieve lead levels consistently below 0.001 mg/l.”* stated Gerard Cody, Public Health Commissioner. Since this is a common occurrence state wide, there is a water-testing program in place in Randolph.

Children’s exposure to lead in drinking water at school is only a small part of their overall potential exposure. Children typically only drink water in schools for a portion of the day. While it is unlikely that lead in drinking water at schools would cause staff or children to have significantly elevated blood lead levels, it can contribute to overall exposure. Risk will vary, however, depending on the individual, the circumstances, and the amount of water consumed. Once the water has been flushed from the pipes after a few seconds greatly reduces the chance for any exposure to lead.

The School Administration and Randolph Board of Health has already taken immediate actions to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff. You should also note that it is not uncommon to detect lead and copper in your drinking water supply. Plumbing fixtures, even those labeled “lead free” may contribute lead to the drinking water. In the future, the Randolph Public Schools’ Facilities team will continue to test the water at various schools and will replace fixtures when lab results indicate that action is necessary.

For more information, please contact Gerard F. Cody, REHS/RS, Public Health Commissioner, at 781-961-0924 or [gcody@randolph-ma.gov](mailto:gcody@randolph-ma.gov). You may also visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lead-in-drinking-water-for-schools-and-childcare-facilities-english/download>