



DeRuyter Central School

Home of the Rockets

711 Railroad Street, DeRuyter, NY 13052
Phone: 315-852-3400 Fax: 315-852-9600

Neal A. Capone, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Jenny Valente
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5-12 Principal

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July 22, 2025

To DeRuyter Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff, as well as maintain compliance with the NYS Department of Health, the DeRuyter CSD recently completed lead testing of water outlets throughout our school buildings. In total, 38 outlets were sampled in accordance with state guidelines and safety protocols.

Of those tested, 5 outlets were found to have lead levels above the acceptable threshold. Out of an abundance of caution, each of these outlets was immediately taken out of service, and appropriate corrective actions are being planned or implemented in alignment with Department of Health recommendations. These outlets will remain out of use until remediation and retesting can take place.

The attached letter includes a detailed breakdown of the specific outlets impacted, the steps we are taking to remediate the issue, and links to helpful resources about lead in drinking water. More information can also be found on our website under the Facilities and Maintenance page.

Please know that the safety and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority. We will continue to be transparent with our community and follow best practices to ensure that our facilities remain safe.

If you have any questions or concerns after reviewing the attached information, please feel free to contact my office 315-852-3400 X7403.

Sincerely,

Dr. Neal Capone
DeRuyter CSD
Superintendent of Schools

DeRuyter Central School = District Committed to Success

Board of Education: Jodi Wiesing, President; Daniel Degear, Vice President; Members – Lisa Benedict, Connor Langevin, Elizabeth Pierce



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A NOTICE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and STAFF

DeRuyter Central School District

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

07/22/2025

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What is “first draw” testing of school drinking water for lead?

The “on-again, off-again” nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This “first draw” sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

What are the results of the first draw testing and what is being done?

Outlets Exceeding the Lead Action Level (5 micrograms per liter)													
Laboratory ID	Outlet Location (or Sample ID)	Outlet Type ¹	Sample Results		Remedial Actions (Please check all that apply)								Notes/Comments
			Initial (ppb)	Post Remediation	Outlet or Plumbing Replacement ²	Permanent Removal ³	Filter Installed and Maintained	Signage	Supervision	Continuing Education	Flushing	Engineering Controls ⁴	
J5F0573-03	Rm 110	Sink	6.3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We are currently using signage until our custodial staff can remove the faucet and replace
J5F0573-24	Kitchen	Warmer	13.0		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The warmer is being replaced in our kitchen project. There will be all new plumbing to the new warmers in the kitchen. This is removed at this time.
J5F0573-25	Kitchen	Warmer	6.3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The warmer is being replaced in our kitchen project. There will be all new plumbing to the new warmers in the kitchen. This is removed at this time.
J5F0573-27	Lg. Gym Hallway	Bottle Filler	12.8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The water is shut off at this time. We are ordering new shut off valve and lab lines to replace the existing ones.
J5F0573-28	Lg. Gym Hallway	Water Fountain Bubbler	27.8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The water is shut off at this time. We are ordering new shut off valve and lab lines to replace the existing ones.

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What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal that can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. Lead is a known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposure as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

What are the other sources of lead exposure?

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries for many purposes, resulting in widespread distribution in the environment. Major sources of lead exposure include lead-based paint in older housing, and lead that built up over decades in soil and dust due to historical use of lead in gasoline, paint, and manufacturing. Lead can also be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, foods, plumbing materials, and cosmetics. Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies but drinking water could become a possible source of lead exposure if the building's plumbing contains lead. The primary source of lead exposure for most children with elevated blood-lead levels is lead-based paint.

Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors, including but not limited to, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil, and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the testing program or sampling results, contact Dr. Neal Capone at (315) 852-3400 X 7403, or go to our school website: www.deruytercentral.org

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.htm>

For information about NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, go to:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

For more information on blood lead testing and ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, see "What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means":

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (English)

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education_materials/index.htm (available in ten languages)

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