



# Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School

210 Campus Lane • Butler, Pennsylvania 16001 • Phone (724) 282-0735

Fax (724) 282-7448

March 11, 2021

Dear Butler County AVTS Community:

On Feb. 26, 2021, water testing was conducted at Butler County AVTS by Intertek-PSI for lead and Legionella. Fifty-eight (58) locations were tested for lead. Fifteen (15) locations were tested for Legionella. These samples were forwarded to and tested by two independent laboratories. Official results were reported to BCAVTS this week.

## **LEAD INFORMATION:**

Again, a total of fifty-eight (58) water samples were collected. Three (3) of the samples had lead concentrations above the EPA Action Level of 15 ug/L (microgram/Liter) or 15.0 ppb (parts per billion) and the EPA upper limit of 20.0 ug/L or 20.0 ppb:

- Nurse's Office Annex Restroom's Handwashing Sink: 39.1 ug/L
- Upper Wing Building's Water Bottle Filling Station: 32.5 ug/L
- Guidance Office Handwashing Sink: 30.6 ug/L

The three (3) locations with concentrations exceeding the EPA upper limit were immediately cleaned, flushed and removed from service. Prior to placing the three (3) outlets back into service, remediation of the outlets and re-sampling will occur to document post-remediation levels below 15.0 ug/L.

(Remediation has occurred as shown in summary below). The third location, the Guidance Office Handwashing Sink, was decommissioned; therefore, does not need to be re-sampled. Eleven (11) additional locations exceeded 5.0 ug/L or 5.0 ppb, which is below EPA Action Level of 15.0 ug/L; however, additional cleaning and flushing has taken place in all of these locations. As per the EPA and Intertek-PSI, these locations can remain in service at this time and may remain in service following follow-up sampling results that do not exceed EPA Action Level. Again, these re-tests will take place next week.

## **LEAD MITIGATION SUMMARY:**

- Nurse's Office Annex Restroom's Handwashing Sink (Upper Wing Building)
  - ACTIONS:
    - Cleaned, flushed and taken out of service
    - Sign above sink/on mirror: "Handwashing Only"
    - Site to be re-tested next week
      - If needed, further actions will take place
- Upper Wing Building's Water Bottle Filling Station (Upper Wing Building)
  - ACTIONS:
    - Cleaned, flushed and taken out of service
    - Sign: "OUT of USE"
    - Site to be re-tested next week
      - If needed, further actions will take place
- Guidance Office Handwashing Sink (Administration Building)
  - ACTIONS:
    - Cleaned, flushed, taken out of service and decommissioned
    - Dead leg removed and line will be capped
      - If needed, further actions will take place

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## LEGIONELLA INFORMATION:

A total of fifteen (15) samples were collected and analyzed for Legionella in water. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) established the Response Levels for Legionella at 10 CFU/mL (no. of colonies X dilution factor) or greater. Also, according to American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), some suggested Response Actions are to review sample collection, handling and testing for potential errors and to confirm that system equipment is in good working order and functioning as intended. Both of these actions were completed and will be described further. Two of the samples tested positive, one (1) above the Response Level and one (1) below the Response Level:

- Hot Water Tank: 120 CFU/mL
- Guidance Office Handwashing Sink: 6 CFU/mL

The Guidance Office Handwashing Sink has been removed from service and no further testing is warranted as the sink has been decommissioned; furthermore, a dead leg has been removed and the water lines will be capped. Based on the sampling results of the samples collected from other locations in the facility with no traces of Legionella, follow-up sampling was conducted to determine if the Legionella source was the Hot Water Tank or a hose associated with the tank. As a precaution, we shut down the tank pending the results of follow-up testing. In addition, we decided to flush the hot water tank and re-sample the water prior to use. Intertek-PSI concurred with our responses.

## LEGIONELLA MITIGATION SUMMARY:

- Hot Water Tank: 120 CFU/mL (Administration Building)
  - ACTIONS
    - Shut down
    - Re-test in process (awaiting results)
    - Routine maintenance
      - If needed, further actions will take place
- Guidance Office Handwashing Sink: 6 CFU/mL (Administration Building)
  - ACTIONS
    - Cleaned, flushed, taken out of service and decommissioned
    - Dead leg removed and line will be capped
      - If needed, further actions will take place

With the health and safety of our students and staff always our first priority, we will continue to work closely with and follow the guidance of the water testing experts at Intertek-PSI during this time. Additional information will be provided when available. Also, this will not impact our instruction status and we will continue with in-person instruction, five days a week. Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [hiler@butlertec.us](mailto:hiler@butlertec.us) or (724) 282-0735 EXT. 202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'R. Hiler'.

Regina Hiler, Ed.D.  
Executive Director