South Koochiching-Rainy River School District #363
Northome School

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October 15, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff,

On August 28, 2026, South Koochiching Rainy River School District (SKRR) conducted sampling for lead in drinking water. While the major source of lead exposure for most Minnesota children is paint, lead in plumbing fixtures can add to a person's overall exposure. Drinking water in schools and homes may contain lead from old lead pipes, plumbing fixtures (e.g., fountains and faucets), or solder that joins pipe sections together. A school designee sampled 17 taps that are commonly used for drinking and cooking and sent them to a certified drinking water laboratory for analysis. A summary of these results is included with this letter.

Six (6) of the taps sampled had results at or above 5 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in school drinking water. **Any tap that tested at or above 5 ppb was immediately taken out of service.**

Location	Date Collected	Date Analyzed	Result
Kitchen Sink North Wall Left Faucet	8-28-26	9-11-26	12.2 ppb
Kitchen Sink North Wall Right Faucet	8-28-26	9-11-26	18.3 ppb
Nurse Bathroom Sink	8-28-26	9-11-26	5.98 ppb
Home Ec. Sink #1	8-28-26	9-11-26	6.63 ppb
Home Ec. Sink #2	8-28-26	9-11-26	29.5 ppb
Home Ec. Sink #4	8-28-26	9-11-26	12.5 ppb

SSKR took the following steps to reduce lead exposure: immediately restricted these sinks from being used for drinking, cooking, food preparation, filling water bottles, or any other activity in which the water could be consumed. All locations had faucets replaced. The District is working to identify and correct the source of the elevated lead levels.

The affected outlets were remediated and retested on October 2, 2026. Six (6) of the taps retested had results below 5 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in school drinking water.

Location	Date Collected	Date Analyzed	Result
Kitchen Sink North Wall Left Faucet	10-2-26	10-13-26	<2.00 ppb
Kitchen Sink North Wall Right Faucet	10-2-26	10-13-26	3.05 ppb
Nurse Bathroom Sink	10-2-26	10-13-26	2.29 ppb
Home Ec. Sink #1	10-2-26	10-13-26	<2.00 ppb
Home Ec. Sink #2	10-2-26	10-13-26	<2.00 ppb
Home Ec. Sink #4	10-2-26	10-13-26	<2.00 ppb

Lead in drinking water typically represents very low exposure and does not typically require medical intervention or blood lead testing. If a parent has a concern about lead exposure, they should talk to their health care provider to determine if additional steps are needed. The priority is reducing exposure by reducing lead at the tap. Elevated blood lead is rarely caused by drinking water sources.

Exposure to lead paint and dust are the most common causes of elevated blood lead levels.

Our school is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. If you have questions about a lead sample result at a specific tap and actions taken, or if you have concerns, please contact Tara Lere at 218-897-5275 or tlere@northome.k12.mn.us

To learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning prevention at MDH Lead Program (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/index.html).

Sincerely,

Tara Lere

Superintendent

Attachment – Lead Testing Results