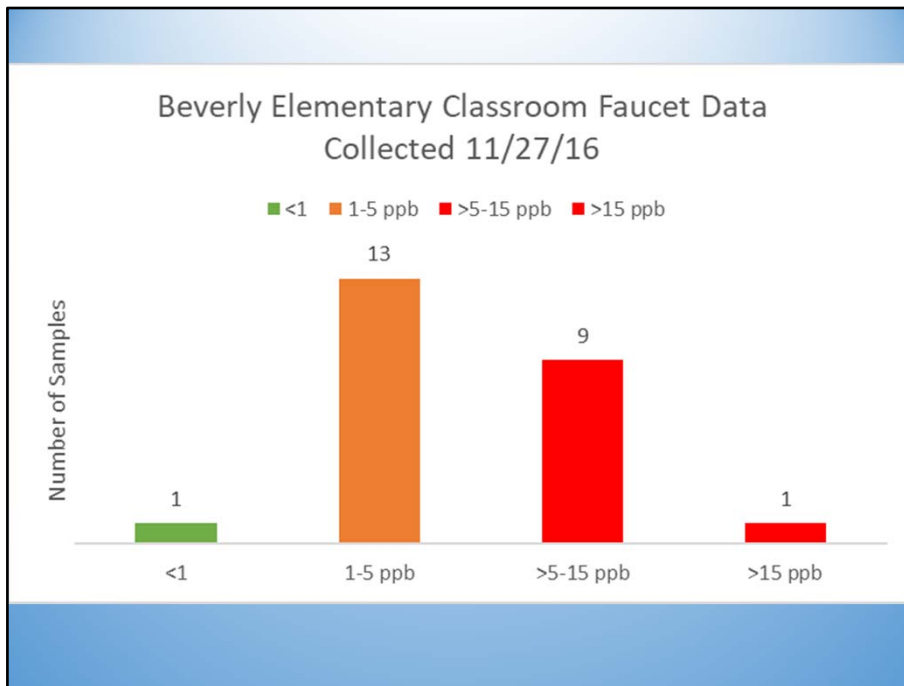


Elin Betanzo

Testimony on HB 5104 and 5105
Filter First for Safe Water in Schools
and Childcares



Information shared with parents focused only on the bubblers, but many children fill up their water bottles with the classroom faucets. Here are the results from the classroom faucets at my kids' elementary school.

Only results greater than 15 ppb were flagged by the school district as problematic. The EPA says that the safe level of lead in drinking water (the Maximum contaminant level goal) is 0 ppb. Only 1 of 24 samples met this threshold. 10 samples were over the bottled water standard for lead (5 ppb), but parents were only told of 1 of these samples.

From FOIA results (not made available to parents) 558 samples were > 5 ppb and of these, 303 were > 15 ppb.

Information shared with parents

BV22-CF
Room 102

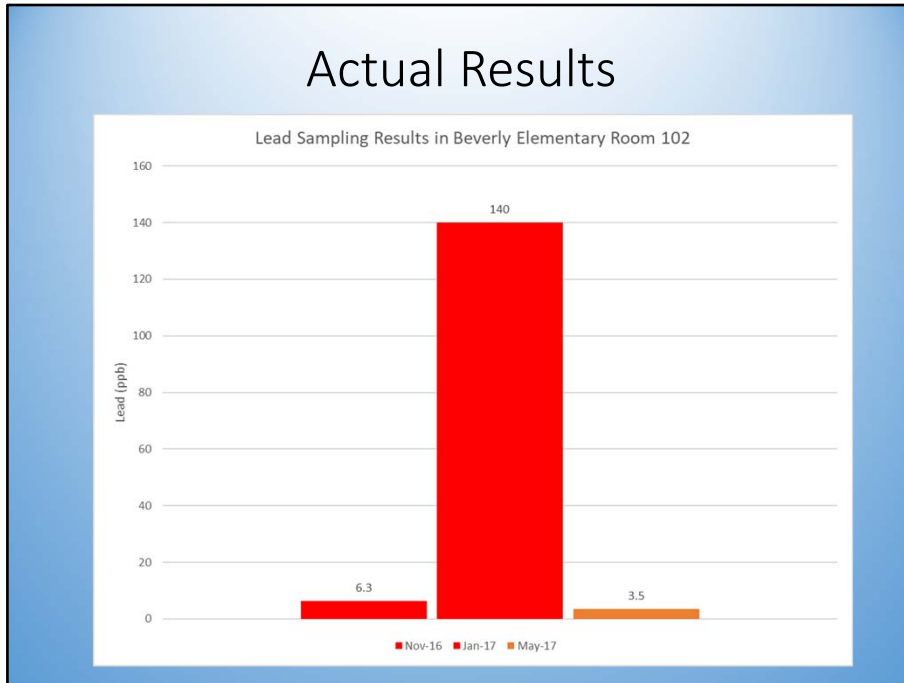
SINK ONLY bubbler (fountain) tested negative

Copper 1.8 mg/L
Lead N/A mg/L

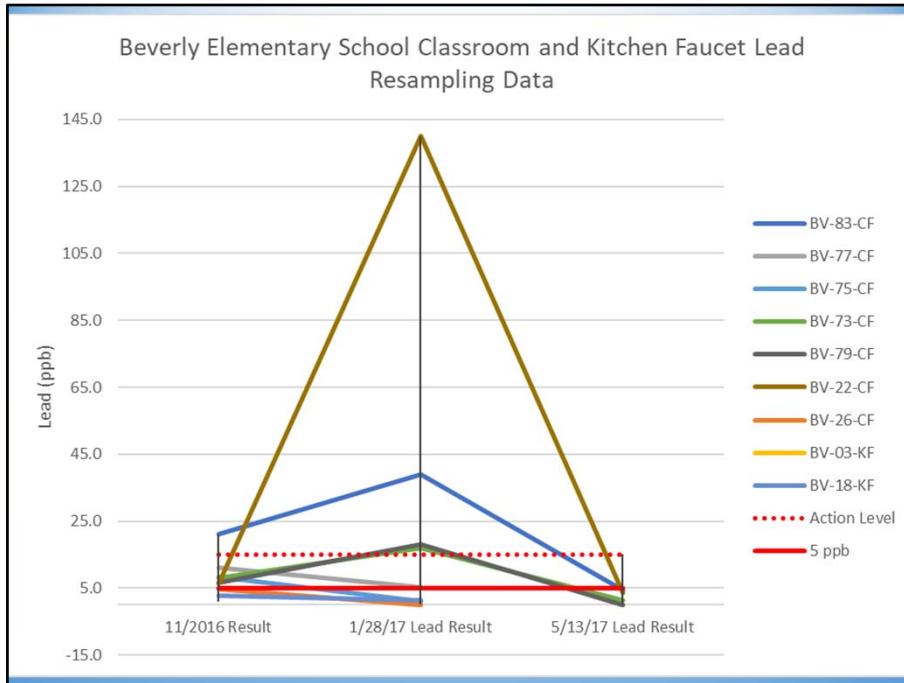


Faucet, Supply lines, & Valves replaced 3/2017. Retested 5-13-17 PASSED

This is an example of how the school district shared sampling results with parents. The initial lead level was 6.3 ppb, but the school district reported it at N/A because they told parents that anything below 15 ppb was safe. The initial lead level was above the bottled water standard. Also, a certified lead reducing filter must be able to bring the lead level below 5 ppb and in most cases will have non-detectable lead results.



This graph shows the actual lead results in this class room. The first sample was already a level of concern – above the MDEQ recommendation of 5 ppb at that time. The second sample was almost 10x the lead action level that is not protective of public health. The first sample, taken after the faucet was replaced, is still over the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended action level of 1 ppb.

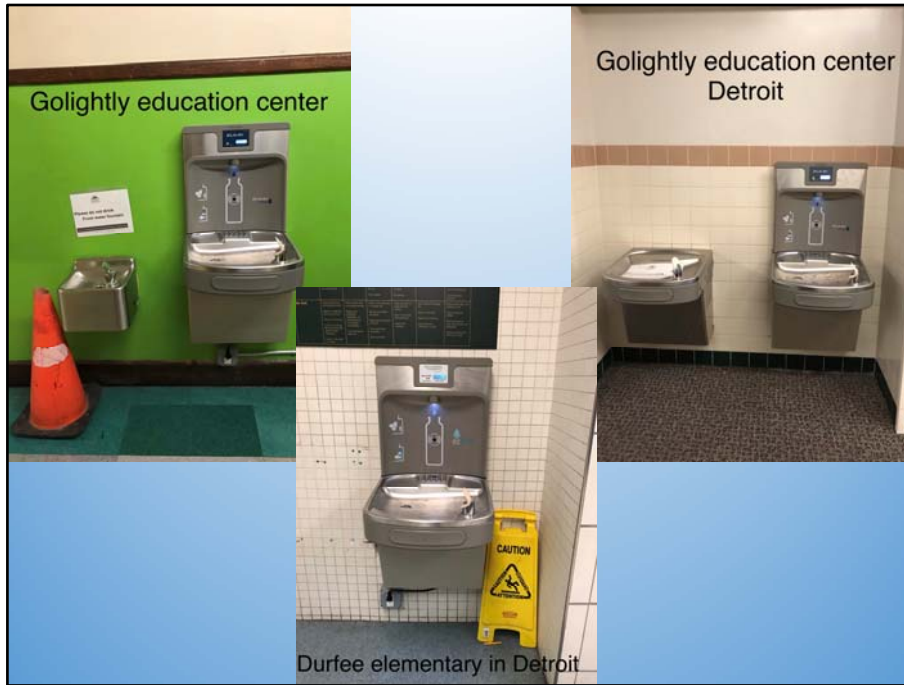


This chart shows that even though only one original sample was above 15 ppb, resampling data showed that a site that originally tested below 15 ppb had a 50% chance of being greater than 15 ppb when retested. Note: all the faucets in the school were the same make and model, but they only resampled the locations that initially exceeded the lead OR copper action level.



These are all filter stations in the Birmingham school district installed right next to an unfiltered fountain. The unfiltered fountains are still on, but now water use is lower at both fixtures. The longer water sits in the fountains, the more lead will leach so the unknowing student is now at higher risk of lead exposure than they were before. Plus, two of these filter stations are not chilled but the fountain is. Kids are more likely to go for the unfiltered fountain in these cases, but more water will flow through the filter stations when kids fill up their water bottles.

Birmingham is not going to turn off the unfiltered faucets unless they have clear guidance and requirements from the state.



These are schools in Detroit. The water is turned off at all the unfiltered faucets, and in the case of Durfee elementary in Detroit, they completely removed the unfiltered tap that used to be there.



There is evidence that we can get this right. Here is a standalone, integrated filter station that was installed on the second floor of my kid's elementary school. When Birmingham sampled all the newly installed filter stations, every single station did not detect any lead in any filtered sample.

House Bills 5104 and 5105 provide clear, straightforward requirements for installing filter stations and preparing a regular maintenance and sampling program. These bills will provide for a reliable source of safe drinking water at all our schools and child cares in Michigan.