



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **How will parents receive updates and vital information on major facilities/maintenance projects at Ardmore ES?**

We are committed to providing accurate information to our parents and community in a timely manner. We will continue to utilize the letters, flyers, robo-call, and the Ardmore ES web-site to provide updates and/or announcements as they become available. Parents can also access the link entitled, “Multi-Phase Lead Remediation Program at Ardmore ES” on the school’s main web-page for specific information and updates regarding lead remediation. Any correspondence that pertains specifically to the lead remediation or major facilities/maintenance projects will be sent home on blue paper.
- **What is involved in the water testing? Was WSSC involved?**

Water testing includes the flushing of the school’s domestic water supply 12-24 hours prior to the actual sampling. The water sampler reports to the school prior to staff and student arrival. Sources to be sampled are identified and water from these sources are placed in sterilized 250 mL plastic bottles which have a nitric acid preservative placed in them. Once sampling effort is complete, the samples are delivered to EMSL Analytical, Inc. of Cinnaminson, NJ, a qualified laboratory for lead analysis via Atomic Absorption Method 200.8. Samples results are reported in micrograms per liter which we then convert to parts per billion which is the unit measurement used by the EPA in reporting lead content in drinking water. WSSC has not been involved since the initial round of testing in 2004.
- **Ardmore ES, has had a long standing problem with water issues. Are there plans to replace the pipes?**

The pipes will be replaced. This project will be funded via a combination of Lead Remediation funds and funds from the FY16 Capitol Improvement Program major projects line item. The work will begin Summer 2015.
- **What is the long range plan to correct the water problem?**

Ardmore ES is included in Phase IV of the PGCPS Lead Remediation Plan which includes the removal and replacement of identified problem fixtures. In the interim, PGCPS will continue to provide bottled water.
- **What efforts are being taken to ensure the safety of the students? How can the school mitigate the students putting the water in their mouths?**

All of the units that tested above the EPA Action level have been taken out of service at Ardmore ES. The principal and staff will continue to communicate with the students to ensure they are well informed. Signs will be posted in all restrooms and near all restroom sinks indicating that water is to be used for hand washing only. Teachers will remind students prior to using the restrooms and hand sanitizer will continue to be available for student use as needed. Bottled water will continue to be provided and will be accessible to students at all times.
- **Is the water from the kitchen safe for cooking and washing fruits and vegetables etc.?**

The water in the kitchen was tested by WSSC in 2004 and was cleared for use. Samples were collected from all sources in the kitchen area including kitchen kettle and sinks and all tested below the EPA Action Level. The water in the kitchen was re-tested in 2014 by PGCPS, all samples from kitchen area tested below the EPA Action Level. Food and Nutrition Services was notified that the water is safe for use in the cafeteria. Bottled water is also used for food preparation and washing fruits and vegetables.



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- **Who or is there a quality assurance person for Ardmore ES?**

The Building Supervisor and Facilities Coordinator work closely with the principal to ensure quality assurance and to make sure that maintenance items that need to be repaired are completed in a timely fashion.

- **How or will the district support the parents with lead testing? Even though the units were taken out of service the last testing was several years ago so students may have been exposed. As a good will gesture can the school system offer or partner with the health department to test students on site at the school?**

Almost all lead poisoning cases stem from exposure to lead based paint and lead in soil ingestion and not from drinking water with a lead content. Based on this information the need for lead testing is not recommended. PGCPS will work closely with the Health Department to ensure parents are provided information on the signs of lead poisoning and next steps if necessary.

- **Will the school ever close and/or relocate to totally renovate? Is this something that is being considered? If not at what point might this become a consideration?**

Not at this time. A plan has been established to replace the pipes in the affected areas of the building during the summer months of 2015 therefore not interrupting the delivery of instruction. We will continue to monitor and assess the needs of the school to determine appropriate action steps as needed.

- **Recently Ardmore ES has undergone an asbestos abatement in one area of the building. Are there other areas in need of immediate repair?**

We will continue to assess the needs of Ardmore ES and determine appropriate action steps as needed.

The school system is licensed by the State of Maryland to remove and/or encapsulate asbestos materials. Maryland regulates all friable materials and any non-friable materials which may become friable during renovation, demolition or asbestos removal projects. Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (A.H.E.R.A.) regulations require school systems to identify all asbestos containing materials (ACM) and to track activities performed on them. This includes ensuring that any work performed is done by accredited workers as well as having clearance air sampling reports and disposal manifests for the material(s) removed. Basically we have to account for all ACM identified when the buildings were inspected.

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), the PGCPS Environmental Office has prepared asbestos management plans for all schools and support buildings. The asbestos management plans list the amount, location and condition of asbestos containing material in the respective building, including diagrams and the results of laboratory analysis.

Mandated (A.H.E.R.A.) asbestos inspections are performed by the inspectors assigned to the Environmental Office. The law requires facilities to be re-inspected, once every three years. We perform the required inspection in one third of the systems building each year.