



**Bassett Healthcare Network**  
School-Based Health

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear parents,

The presence of lead in drinking water is a problem that affects older houses, schools and public buildings. Elevated lead levels have been discovered in some of the taps and drinking fountains in the school. As you may know, lead can have a negative effect on the brain development of infants and children. These effects are most concerning in the developing fetus, infant and young children. That's the reason your doctor has tested your children for lead at age 12 and 24 months.

There are efforts by the school to correct the contaminated water. Until those actions have been complete, drinking bottled water would be a fine alternative. For most students and certainly for the older students, it is unlikely that there will be any noticeable difference in their health, behavior or academic abilities. There are ways to test for elevated lead in the blood of your children if you feel that they are particularly at risk.

There are many resources available to answer additional questions at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); additionally, you can address questions to the School-Based Health Center personnel or your child's primary care provider.

Sincerely,

Chris Kjolhede, MD, MPH



*Easy access to quality health care for kids*

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**Web** [www.bassett.org](http://www.bassett.org)

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