



# Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic

## East Mountain School

Stacey Paulis, Ed. D.  
*Director/Principal*

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*Business Administrator*

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April 10, 2025

[East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health-Carrier Clinic]

Dear School Parents, Guardians and Staff:

East Mountain School is committed to protecting our students' and staff's health. As required by the New Jersey Department of Education regulations, all drinking water outlets in our school facilities must be sampled for lead. As a result, East Mountain School has scheduled the lead drinking water sampling for East Mountain School for May 2025.

### Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems when too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

Lead is rarely found in the source water; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines). Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be "lead free". The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

### What Actions We Are Taking?

Prior to sampling, East Mountain School and Hackensack Meridian Health-Carrier Clinic, developed a Lead Sampling Plan for East Mountain School and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all drinking water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the school to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or a lead service line are present. Upon completion, we were able to plan for water testing.



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All drinking water outlets in East Mountain School will be sampled in May 2025. We anticipate receiving the results from our laboratory within two weeks of sampling. Upon receiving the sample results, East Mountain School will inform you if any of the drinking water outlets had a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [ppb]) and will post all of the results on our website at [carrierclinic.org/East Mountain School](http://carrierclinic.org/East Mountain School). The results will be used to assist in the prioritization of future water testing for lead in accordance with East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health-Carrier Clinic's Lead Sampling Plan.

Hackensack Meridian Health-Carrier Clinic will also implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the action level of 15 µg/l (ppb). You would be notified in case of such an event.

### How Can I Learn More?

For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection's website at

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html>

Sincerely,

Dr. Stacey Paulis, Ed.D.  
Director/Principal

Cc: Kenneth J. Esser Jr., Executive Vice President, Behavior Health CTS  
Hackensack Meridian Health & Interim President & Chief Hospital  
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