

URGENT NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND PARENTS OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- The Newark Public Schools have acknowledged the existence of lead in the water for numerous public schools operated by the District.¹ The presence of lead in school water supplies represents a potential public health crisis, admittedly goes back several years and, likely much longer.
- **There is no known safe blood lead level for children.** As noted by the federal Centers for Disease Control:

“Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. No safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect IQ, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement....”
- Lead exposure also presents risks for adults, such as teachers and staff employed at affected schools:

Lead poisoning may present such signs and symptoms as abdominal pain, constipation, irritability, difficulty concentrating, and anemia. Chronic exposure to even modest levels of lead, too low to trigger symptoms, can also increase risk for hypertension and accelerate future cognitive and renal decline in adults.
- In order to protect you and your children from harm, proper monitoring of blood lead levels is essential. Children exposed to lead should be screened and, if necessary, receive immediate treatment to reduce the harms associated with lead exposure.
- As a service to its members and the Community, the Newark Teachers Union (the “NTU”) is working with its attorneys to monitor the District’s response to the lead water crisis.
- **If you believe you or your children may have been exposed to lead at any school operated by the District, please immediately contact: Colin M. Lynch, Esq, of the Zazzali Firm via telephone (973) 623-1822, or e-mail at clynch@zazzali-law.com. Delay may harm your ability to protect your rights.**

¹ Impacted schools include the following: 13th Avenue, 14th Avenue School, Abington Avenue, American History High School, Bard High School, Barringer Academy STEM/Arts & Humanities, Benjamin Franklin, Branch Brook, Cleveland, Early Childhood School – Central at Berliner, Early Childhood School – West at Old Speedway, George Washington Carver (including Bruce Street and KIPP Seek Academy), Hawthorne Avenue, Ivy Hill, John F. Kennedy School, Louise Spencer (including Miller Street), Luis Munoz Marin, Mount Vernon, New Jersey Regional Day, Newark Evening High School (Vocation at West Side), Newark Leadership at Newark Vocational, Newton Street (includes Fast Track Success Academy). Quitman Street, Ridge Street Annex (Grade K-1), Ridge Street Main Building, Roberto Clemente, South 17th Street, South Street, Weequahic (including Eagle Academy for Young Men & Girls Academy of Newark) and Wilson Avenue.