

March 2016 PCSD News

The health and safety of our students and staff is our first priority. For this reason, the Pittsford Central School District has taken voluntary and precautionary measures to test its buildings' water quality.

Why Test School Drinking Water?

We have confidence in the water supplied to our buildings by the Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA). The MCWA regularly tests and reports water quality results. However, some aging devices, solder, or fittings installed inside the buildings may have contained lead, which can slowly permeate into a building's water supply system.

As water quality has been scrutinized nationally and locally, the Pittsford Central School District made the decision to contract with a third-party environmental consulting firm to test the water quality in all of its schools. While water testing is not required for schools that receive water from a public water system, this testing was initiated out of an abundance of caution.

Is the Drinking Water in Schools Safe?

Yes, the water in PCSD buildings is safe. A voluntary testing protocol was conducted by an independent, third-party environmental consulting firm that tested each school's drinking and service water for lead. Samples were taken from "areas designated as high priority," as outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA defines high priority areas as all drinking fountains, kitchens, and locations designated for frequent drinking water. Additionally, random samples of low frequency areas were tested.

Test samples were sent to an independent laboratory for analysis and reporting. The raw data returned from the lab indicated that of the 228 water samples tested, 20 showed lead levels above the EPA's 15 parts per billion (ppb) threshold for schools (general public threshold is 20 ppb).

The New York State Department of Health and the Monroe County Department of Public Health report that the amount of lead found in home and school taps is not a significant source of lead. There are no known cases of lead poisoning through water consumption in Monroe County.

What's Next?

Where the raw data show elevated lead levels in water outlets, these devices were turned off and labeled "out of service." Fourteen of these 20 devices have already been removed or replaced and will return to service after they've been retested and found to be within EPA standards. The remaining six devices have been disconnected and will be replaced

when parts are available. These devices will also be retested before they are brought back online.

<u>Building</u>	<u>Device</u>	<u>Action</u>
Mendon High School	2 sinks	Replaced, disconnected and scheduled for retesting
Sutherland High School	0 devices	
Barker Road Middle School	1 fountain	Disconnected, scheduled for replacement and retesting
Calkins Road Middle School	0 devices	
Allen Creek Elementary School	4 sinks, 1 fountains	Disconnected, scheduled for replacement and retesting
Jefferson Road Elementary School	1 sink, 3 fountains	Replaced, disconnected and scheduled for retesting
Mendon Center Elementary School	3 sinks	Replaced, disconnected and scheduled for retesting
Park Road Elementary School	4 sinks	One removed; three replaced, disconnected and scheduled for retesting
Thornell Road Elementary School	0 devices	
Lomb Building	1 fountain	Removed
Transportation/Maintenance	0 devices	

The District will continue to work within the EPA testing guidelines as the lead-free replacement devices are brought back online. In the meantime, signage is posted until repairs and follow-up testing can be completed at each site.