

Grand Island Central School District

1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, New York 14072

Telephone (716) 773-8800 • Fax (716) 773-8843

www.grandislandschools.org

April 29, 2021

Dear Grand Island Families:

To protect public health, New York State (NYS) enacted a regulation requiring that every school test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), NYS requires that action be taken to reduce the lead.

It is vital that schools conduct these tests, as high levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in the lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water.

The Grand Island Central School District tested its drinking water for lead in every single building in January. Testing was conducted on the following dates at the following locations:

January 25th – Huth Road Elementary and Middle School

January 26th – High School, Maintenance Building, and Eco Island

January 27th – Sidway Elementary, Transportation Building and Buildings and Grounds

January 28th – Kaegebein Elementary

Of the 497 water samples we tested in our school buildings, only 28 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. Our schools will remain open as we remediate the sources that were found to be above the 15 ppb threshold. The timetable for the remediation of each one of the identified sources will depend on the availability of parts, installation and the process of retesting. It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back in service and available for drinking and/or cooking, until the sources are fully mitigated and meet the New York State Department of Health standards. Listed below are the sites that exceeded the threshold and the results obtained from the sampling.

Sidway Elementary

75 samples tested, 0 exceeded the 15 ppb

Huth Road Elementary

70 samples tested, 6 exceeded the 15 ppb

Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Blue Hall Room 1 – Class Sink test result was 17.5 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Blue Hall Room 2 – Class Sink test result was 18.6 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Double Kitchen Left - Sink test result was 26.8 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Yellow Hall Room 23 – Class Sink test result was 27.0 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Yellow Hall Boys Restroom Left – Class Sink test result was 15.9 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Yellow Hall Boys Restroom Right – Class Sink test result was 19.1 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.

Kaegebein Elementary

80 samples tested, 7 exceeded the 15 ppb

Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Room 1 - Bathroom Sink test result was 15.1 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Room 5 - Bathroom Sink test result was 27.1 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Room 10 - Bathroom Sink test result was 28.5 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Band Room – Classroom Sink test result was 15.4 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Room 29 – Classroom Sink test result was 21.9 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Room 27 – Classroom Sink test result was 114 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Bathroom near boiler room test result was 16.3 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.

Middle School

82 samples tested, 5 exceeded the 15 ppb

Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Room 115 - Classroom Sink test result was 18.5 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- 8th Grade Girls Rightmost - Bathroom Sink test result was 18.4 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Nurses Office Exam Room Sink test result was 15.9 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Room 189 Art Wall Far Left – Classroom Sink test result was 22.6 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Room 188 Art Wall Far Left – Classroom Sink test result was 18.7 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.

High School

153 samples tested, 6 exceeded the 15 ppb

Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Trainer’s Room- Sink test result was 20.6 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Boys Team Room Coach’s Office- Sink test result was 15.6 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Boys Team Room 115 test result was 62.6 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- 123B Tech Room Left – Classroom Sink test result was 23.2 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Kitchen Small Pot Fill test result was 26.8 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Library - Sink test result was 17.2 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.

Eco Island

3 samples tested, 0 exceeded the 15 ppb

Transportation Building

14 samples tested, 0 exceeded the 15 ppb

Buildings and Grounds

12 samples tested, 1 exceeded the 15 ppb

Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Men’s Lavatory Right test result was 17.9 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.

Maintenance Building

5 samples tested, 3 exceeded the 15 ppb

Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Men's Room - Sink test result was 52.4 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Women's Room - Sink test result was 40.2 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Kitchenette Near Restrooms test result was 46.7 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.

Once again, the timetable for the remediation of each one of the identified sources will depend on the availability of parts, installation and the process of retesting. It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back in service and available for drinking and/or cooking, until the sources are fully mediated and meet the New York State Department of Health standards.

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at any of the district building main offices, which are open during the school day or on our district website at <http://www.grandislandschools.org/>. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Mr. James Rozler, Director of Facilities at 773-8823 or Dr. Rubie Harris, Assistant Superintendent of School Business and Finance at 773-8805.

For information about water quality in sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or Erie County Department of Health at 961-6800. You may also wish to visit their website at <http://www2.erie.gov/health> . If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 716-773-8801.

Sincerely,



Brian Graham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools