

# Grand Island Central School District

1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, New York 14072

Telephone (716) 773-8800 • Fax (716) 773-6279

[www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org)

October 27, 2016

Dear Grand Island Elementary Families:

To protect public health, New York State (NYS) recently enacted a new 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 elementary building in September. In fact, we conducted our testing at Huth on September 26, Sidway on September 27 and Kaegebein on September 28 and subsequently received our results a few days ago. Of the 305 water samples we tested in the three elementary buildings, only 37 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**

85 samples tested, 6 exceeded the 15 ppb

### Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Kitchen Sink 22 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.

- Cafeteria - 1 Drinking Fountain 17 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Boys Locker Room (across from room 122) - 1 sink - 19 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 211- Classroom Sink 24 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 204 - Bathroom Sink 16 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Old Boiler Room basement sink 21 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation to take place.

### **Huth Road Elementary**

117 samples tested, 7 exceeded the 15 ppb

#### Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Room 10 - Drinking Fountain test result was 16 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Main Office - Bathroom Sink test result was 16 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Kitchen Island Sink test result was 21 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Kitchen Prep Sink test result was 23 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Kitchen Prep Sink test result was 24 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Kitchen Bathroom Sink test result was 22 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Library Sink test result was 16 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.

### **Kaegebein Elementary**

100 samples tested, 24 exceeded the 15 ppb

#### Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Room 1 - Bathroom Sink test result was 18 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 5 - Bathroom Sink test result was 27 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 10 - Bathroom Sink test result was 270 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 12 – Classroom Sink test result was 30 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 54 – Classroom Sink test result was 16 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.

- Room 49 – Water Fountain test result was 140 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 50 - Water Fountain test result was 49 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 36 – Classroom Sink test result was 36 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 36 – Water Fountain test result was 24 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 35 – Classroom Sink test result was 110 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 35 – Water Fountain test result was 860 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 34 – Classroom Sink test result was 170 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 34 – Water Fountain test result was 52 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 33 – Classroom Sink test result was 68 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 31 – Classroom Sink test result was 86 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 31 – Water Fountain test result was 46 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 29 – Classroom Sink test result was 400 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 27 – Classroom Sink test result was 140 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 27 – Water Fountain test result was 55 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 30 – Left Sink in the Old Cafeteria test result was 18 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Storage Closet near room 30 sink test result was 48 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Boy Lavatories near room 30 far right sink test result was 17 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Maintenance office bathroom test result was 18 ppb, signage has been placed to identify this source and remediation will take place.
- Kitchen East Wall Prep Sink test result was 23 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.

We are in the process of testing the drinking water at our middle school and high school building **this week**. After we receive those results, we will send out another letter informing those families as well. We will continue water testing in other buildings where employees work or students visit such as our Transportation building, District Office, the Maintenance buildings and our Eco Island site.

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 Mr. Robert McDow, 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