Building Bridges for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with equity, innovation and optimism

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James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

May 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you are probably aware from our previous correspondence, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 15 micrograms per liter (µg/L), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead. We must remove these outlets from service, and/or label them as appropriate, to indicate that the outlet is not to be used for drinking. After these outlets are remediated, they must be re-tested to ensure the levels are in compliance. Outlets that test below the action level remain in service with no restrictions. Currently, NYS requires completion of initial testing by June 30, 2021.

The District has now completed all initial testing Districtwide. Current results show a Middle School girls locker room faucet, a kitchen faucet, and a gymnasium drinking fountain testing above the 15ppb threshold. These outlets were immediately removed from service: the fountain was turned off pending replacement, and filters have been installed at the two faucets. We have scheduled the retesting necessary to return them to service.

The District continues to work with Rockland County BOCES Health & Safety Department and the Rockland County Department of Health to ensure that our testing and remediation processes comply with the current guidance. Rockland County Department of Health has been informed of these results and remediation, and they will be reported to the New York State Department of Health as well.

We will keep you informed as we continue our testing and remediation processes. In the meantime, we will continue to be proactive relative to the health and safety of our school community and we will continue to comply with all applicable regulatory requirements.

Respectfully,

James J. Montesano. Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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