



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

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, 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 ($\mu\text{g/L}$), 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 are re-tested to ensure the levels are in compliance. Outlets that test below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

NYS requires completion of initial testing by June 30, 2021. We have started testing, and have so far completed tests for our Elementary Schools and the High School. Seven outlets testing out of range above 15ppb were found, as follows: Upper Nyack Elementary, 2 outlets (a classroom sink and a conference room sink), Valley Cottage Elementary, one outlet (a kitchen faucet), Liberty Elementary, two outlets (a library sink and a water fountain) and Nyack High School, two outlets (a prep room sink and a steam table filler). The two kitchen outlets and the water fountain were immediately disconnected and taken out of service. The four sinks were immediately labelled as non-potable handwashing sinks only, pending completion of remediation and retesting. Testing is currently in progress at the Nyack Middle School, the Old Nyack High School and the Christian Herald Field House.

The District is working 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