WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 12, 2016

Dear Parents and Staff:

As you may have heard, on September 6, 2016 Governor Cuomo signed legislation which requires all public schools in New York State to test all potable water sources for lead. We understand this legislation is the first of its kind in the United States. The Health and Safety of students and staff at the Whitehall Central School District is our number one priority and as such, we have taken the steps necessary to respond to and comply with all facets of this legislation.

In anticipation of the Governor's signature the District contracted with Pace Analytical to collect water samples in accordance with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) testing protocols.

On the morning of September 28, 2016 a total of 95 sources of water were collected from the Whitehall Elementary School and analyzed at the Pace Analytical Laboratory. The District obtained the results from the lab October 11, 2016. Of the 95 sources tested, 38 were noted to have levels in excess of the New York State Department of Health Action Level for schools (15 parts per billion). Most of these sites were noted to be handwashing sinks (32) and have since had signage posted above them a non-potable source of water. The remaining 6 sites are water fountains. The district has taken immediate action and shut off the source of water to those 6 faucets, installing temporary water coolers as sources of potable water at those locations. The District is working with Pace Analytical, relying on their expertise and taking all necessary steps to address the remediation (replacement of outlets), test and retest as required, and confirm the safety of water at all outlets and throughout the District.

Additionally, and in compliance with the newly enacted legislation, the District is conducting sampling and awaiting results from all sources of potable water at the High School to ensure compliance with NYSDOH deadlines.

Attached to this letter, you will find a summary of all elevated sample results at the Elementary School for your review. High School analytical documentation will be made available as soon as the district receives the results.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any further questions. Student safety is, and will continue to be our number one priority!

Sincerely,

Patrick Dee
Superintendent of Schools

Testing identified lead levels in excess of the NYSDOH Action level: (15 parts per billion) at the following elementary locations:

Location	Results	Location	Results
E1 Copy Center Sink	61.8	E59 Room 16 sink	30.1
E4 Kitchen Bathroom	24.2	E60 Room 16 boys bathroom sink	72.4
E5 Kitchen Steamer Hose	38.1	E61 Room 16 girls bathroom sink	30.1
E8 Kitchen Faucet next to overhead sprayer	24.3	E63 Room 16A sink	28.7
E13 Drinking Fountain outside Cafeteria A	25.6	E64 Room 18 sink	17.4
E15 Boys coaches office sink	228	E65 Room 18 boys bathroom sink	38.2
E16 Girls coaches office sink	43.2	E66 Room 18 girls bathroom sink	22.2
E21 Janitor closet slop sink Music Hall	33.8	E67 Room 18A Drinking Fountain	60.0
E25 Main Office storage sink	57.3	E68 Room 18A sink	47.0
E26 Janitors closet slop sink Main Office	185	E69 Room 22 sink	231
E33 Drinking fountain between 13 & 13A	34.3	E73 Room 22A sink	180
E36 Drinking fountain between 9 & 9A	24.6	E74 Room 24 sink	26.6
E40 Room 7A sink	19.2	E78 Room 24A sink	19.5
E41 Room 3 sink	19.0	E81 Room 25 girls bathroom sink	15.6
E42 Room 3 Drinking Fountain	22.6	E83 Room 25A sink	49.3
E46 Room 1 Drinking Fountain	26.9	E84 Room 27 sink	35.4
E49 Room 4A sink	22.1	E88 Room 27A sink	33.8
E53 Room 10 sink	31.8	E91 Room 29 bathroom sink	15.1
E55 Room 10 sink	18.8	E93 Room 29 sink next to bathroom	24.0

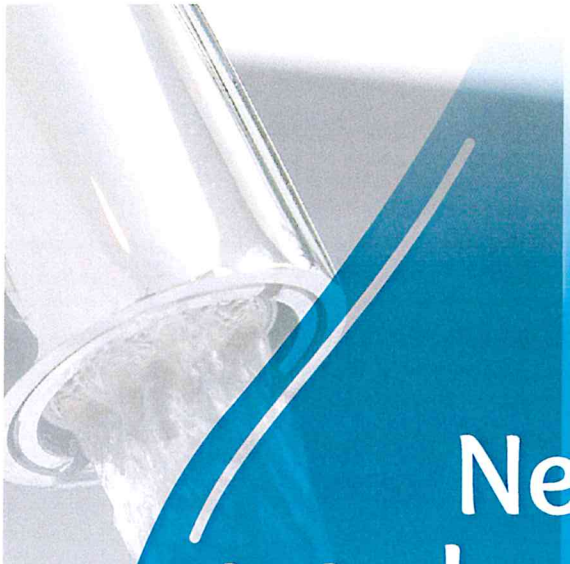
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD AND DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS

New York State Education Department information on lead and drinking water, http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/HealthSafety/GetLeadOut 042105.html

New York Department of Health Website, (https.Wwww.health.ny.gov/publications/2508/) The Environmental Protection Agency's "3 T's for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools" (www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit leadschools guide Sts leadschools.pdf)

How lead enters our water

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.



New state law means public schools will test for lead in water

On Sept. 6, 2016, New York state became the first state in the nation to require all public schools and BOCES to test all sources of drinking water for lead. If a water outlet is found to have a lead level above the state's "action level" of 15 parts per billion (ppb), a school district must:

- take immediate steps to prohibit use of the outlet for drinking or cooking purposes;
- implement a remediation plan; and
- ensure that students and staff have an adequate supply of water for drinking and cooking in the meantime.

WHAT "LEAD-FREE" MEANS

New York's new law does not require water testing in school buildings that are designated as "lead-free," as defined by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It is important to understand that the term "lead-free" does not refer to the presence or absence of lead in water. Federal laws enacted in 1986, and updated in 2011, limit the amount of lead that can be used in new plumbing and fixtures. A building can be deemed lead-free if it was built after Jan. 4, 2014, or a New York State licensed Professional Engineer or Architect certifies it to be lead-free.

Why are school districts testing for lead?

With heightened awareness of water quality issues around the country, New York adopted these water testing regulations to help ensure that children are protected from lead exposure while in school. According to the state Department of Health, lead is a common metal found in the environment, but it is also a toxic material that can be harmful if ingested or inhaled. Although the primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint, exposure can also come from drinking water as a result of the lead content of plumbing materials and source water. While federal law now restricts the amount of lead used in new plumbing materials, the corrosion of older plumbing and fixtures in many buildings can cause lead to enter drinking water.

Where will districts test for lead?

Under the new state law, school districts must collect samples to be tested from every possible source of water used for drinking and cooking in any buildings that may be occupied by students. These outlets include, but may not be limited to, drinking fountains (both bubbler and water-cooler types), kitchen sinks, classroom combination sinks/drinking fountains, student restroom sinks and nurse's office sinks. To comply with the regulations, water samples must be collected when water has been motionless for at least 8 hours but no more than 18 hours.

When will I know the results of water testing at my school?

That depends. While the state gave school districts deadlines for the water sampling, it requires the testing to be completed by a state-approved laboratory. So how quickly a district receives the results depends upon how quickly the lab can turn the samples around.

Once school districts receive the results, if any outlets exceed the action level, districts are required to notify all staff and parents/guardians in writing about the test results *within 10 business days*. Within six weeks of receiving the results, districts must post all results and any remediation plans on their websites.

What happens if the lead level in my child's school exceeds the "action level"?

If test results show the lead concentration of water at an outlet exceeds the action level, schools must immediately prohibit the use of the outlet for drinking or cooking purposes and implement a remediation plan, under the guidance of the Department of Health, to address the issue. The outlet may not be used until follow-up test results indicate that lead levels are at or below the action level.

What if my child's school tested the water before the state law was passed?

Schools that conducted testing prior to the passage of the law can meet the requirements if their water sampling occurred after Jan. 1, 2015, and was in full compliance with the procedures outlined in the regulations. Schools where sampling procedures *substantially complied* with the regulations can apply to their local health department for a waiver. Regardless of prior testing, public reporting and parent/staff notification requirements remain.

Are schools required to test for lead in the future?

Schools will need to conduct water testing again in 2020 and every five years thereafter, or sooner if required by the state Commissioner of Health.

What if I have more questions?

If you have health concerns, it is always best to consult your family's physician. For more information about lead in drinking water:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Basic Information About Lead in Drinking Water" http://bit.ly/1TckaVX
- NYS Department of Health, "Get Ahead of Lead! Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water" http://on.ny.gov/2cEe50A

BY THE NUMBERS

1

New York is the first state in the nation to require schools to test water for lead.

15

Lead in water is measured in parts per billion (ppb). 15 ppb is the "action level" established by the new state regulations.

8

All water samples must be "first draw," which means there has been no water flow for at least 8 hours.