



HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Office of the Superintendent

Fino M. Celano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Herricks School Community,

Our school district is committed to providing a safe and healthy school environment for our students, teachers and staff. Last summer, in response to nation-wide concerns regarding lead in drinking water, our school district proactively retained the services of an environmental consultant firm to voluntarily perform sampling of all ‘high priority’ water outlets for the presence of lead. This testing was conducted in accordance with recommended guidelines at that time established by the Environmental Protective Agency (EPA). Under such guidelines, water outlets that are regularly used for drinking or cooking are deemed high priority. Any drinking water outlets that revealed concentrations of lead above the federal guideline action level were immediately removed from service, remedial actions were performed, and water outlets returned to service only after resampling results revealed a concentration of lead below the action level. The laboratory report issued by the environmental consultant for this sampling was posted on the district’s website and is available at the Administrative Offices – Facilities Department.

On September 6, 2016, Governor Cuomo signed legislation requiring all school districts in New York State to conduct such testing and to take responsive actions. The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) adopted an emergency regulation entitled Lead Testing in School Drinking Water (10 NYCRR Subpart 67-4) mandating school districts perform sampling for the presence of lead of all potable water fixtures currently, or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes in their buildings. Although this emergency regulation generally required the same testing methodology as the federal guidelines previously performed by the Herricks School District, it did impose a stricter action level for the presence of lead, and also required specific community and health department agency notifications and additional sampling. The school district again retained the services of the environmental consultant to ensure our compliance with this new emergency regulation.

In summary, the drinking water outlets currently servicing our district meet the federal and state guidelines and regulations. Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) were removed from service, remedial actions were performed, and water outlets returned to service only after resampling results revealed a concentration of lead below the action level. Certain outlets, such as sink faucets needed for handwashing, cleaning or instruction (such as labs) were posted with a sign indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

The school district has also implemented various other controls and policies to ensure our continued compliance with the new state emergency regulation, including plans to retest the water again in year 2020.

Information about the School District's lead testing program, including copies of all laboratory results, can be found on the District's website and at the Administrative Offices – Facilities Department, 999B Herricks Road, New Hyde Park, NY 11040 on weekdays during normal business hours when school is in session.

As always, the health and safety of our students, staff and community remains our top priority. If additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact the District's Director of Facilities at 305-8905.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Regards,

Fino M. Celano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools