



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

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James Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

October 11, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In my letter dated September 12, 2016, I notified the community that Governor Cuomo signed a law on Sept. 6th requiring that all New York State public schools test for lead in potable (drinking) water every five (5) years, making New York State the first State requiring lead testing and establishing a threshold for remediation of 15 ppb (*parts per billion*) for a 250 mL (*milliliter*) water sample. All public schools must comply with the same deadlines that require elementary school water sampling be completed by Sept. 30th and secondary school water sampling be completed by Oct. 31st. Although the District had already taken proactive testing measures by sampling our potable water faucets during the spring and summer, the standard used was the EPA's established guideline of 20 ppb for a 250 mL water sample. Additionally, the new law expanded the definition of potable water fixtures to include areas where students could possibly drink the water when not supervised, such as bathroom sinks.

Given the short deadlines to comply with the new law, Rockland BOCES Health and Safety contracted with an environmental company (Adelaide) to provide qualified technicians to complete the sampling before the due dates. Last week the District received the results of the sampling of our elementary schools. There was one faucet in a boy's bathroom sink in Liberty Elementary that exceeded the threshold of 15 ppb. This faucet was shut down pending remediation and retesting to verify results under the 15 ppb threshold. Since the other faucets in the boy's bathroom tested under the threshold, there was no concern about our students being able to wash their hands. All samples for Upper Nyack and Valley Cottage were under the 15 ppb threshold.

I also advised the community in my previous letter that there were two (2) faucets that were shut down pending remediation, a Liberty classroom sink in the art room and a sink in the Middle School field house. Both of these faucets have been remediated and retested. Results for the Liberty classroom sink is now 1 ppb and the Middle School field house sink is 2.62 ppb.

You will be receiving another update following receipt of the test results from our Middle and High School water samples. In addition, the Rockland County Health Department has been notified of all test results that exceeded the threshold and will be advised of all remediation and subsequent testing. In addition, all test results are posted on our website once all results are received, which we anticipate within the next several weeks.

Sincerely,

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

JJM:ld

**Si ou bezwen enfòmasyon tradui an kreyòl, rele Jocelyne Abraham nan 353-7044.
Si le hace falta información traducida en español, llame a Yesenia Polanco 353-7042.**