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

June 10, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As stated in my letter of May 20, 2016, the Nyack Public Schools has been working closely with Rockland BOCES Health and Safety to conduct water tests in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) Technical Guidance protocol entitled “3T’s for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools” (3T’s stand for training, testing & telling). High Priority areas were identified, which include all drinking fountains, all kitchen sinks, all classroom sinks, and any other sink known to be used for water consumption. A total of 201 samples were taken from our schools to be analyzed.

Although we are still waiting for results for our High School and Old High School, today we received test results on the remainder of our buildings and are pleased to report that over 97% of our samples were within the 20 ppb (*parts per billion*) EPA standard for a 250 mL (*milliliter*) sample. All results for Upper Nyack Elementary and the Middle School were within the EPA’s standards for safe drinking water. Test results on all drinking fountains were also within the EPA’s guidelines. There were three (3) sinks at Liberty Elementary and (1) one sink at Valley Cottage Elementary that were found to be slightly above the EPA’s threshold of 20 ppb. Additionally, one (1) sink in the Hilltop Administration Building tested slightly above the threshold. The samples taken for those five (5) sinks ranged between 21 ppb – 23 ppb. All other samples for Liberty, Valley Cottage and Hilltop were within the acceptable levels. This includes all of the drinking fountains at those buildings.

Upon receiving the results today, the five (5) sink faucets that tested above the guidelines were shut off. Consistent with the EPA’s 3T’s protocol, all sinks that tested slightly high will be retested, after removing aerators and flushing the system for 30 seconds. This sampling approach is designed to identify whether the lead content is coming from accumulation in the aerators or whether the source is the actual plumbing, knowledge that will permit us to develop a corrective action plan. The five sinks will remain off until the source has been identified and remediated. Further information on our remediation plan will be forthcoming, as well as the test results on our High School and Old High School when received.

We want to assure you that the health and safety of our students and staff, is our priority. If you are interested in securing additional information about the topic of elevated lead readings in the water supply in schools, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a guideline manual. https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf

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.**