

Greene Central School

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Good Morning:

On September 6, 2016, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation requiring all school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in New York State to test potable water systems for lead contamination and to take responsive actions. To implement this new law, the Department of Health issued emergency regulations, titled Lead Testing in School Drinking Water -10 NYCRR Subpart 67-4 (Subpart 67- 4), effective September 6, 2016.

Schools are responsible for identifying the total number of outlets that require sampling. Samples must be first draw samples, collected in 250 ml containers, and taken from a cold water outlet where the water has been motionless in the pipes for a minimum of 8 hours but not more than 18 hours. Samples must be analyzed by a laboratory that is certified under the Department of Health's Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP).

If lead levels are detected above 15 parts per billion (ppb) at any potable water outlet, the school must discontinue use of that outlet until a lead remediation plan is implemented to mitigate the lead level, and test results indicate that the lead levels are at or below the action level. The school must ensure that building occupants have an adequate alternate supply of potable water for drinking and cooking until the remediation plan is implemented. Schools must report the exceedance to the local health department (LHD) within one business day. Test results must also be provided in writing to all staff and parents no more than 10 business days after receiving the report.

Pursuant to the regulations, the District sampled all potable water outlets in the Middle/High School that are currently or potentially used for drinking and cooking purposes including but not limited to bubblers, drinking fountains, and faucets. Faucets may be located anywhere on school property where drinking water is currently or potentially obtained, including but not limited to the athletic field. First draw samples were drawn using the EPA's 3 T's Guidelines. I am happy to say that most drinking water outlets in the district passed. Unfortunately, 25 sinks not used for drinking and two drinking fountains did not pass. Those two fountains were immediately disabled.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND that most of these outlets are *NOT* drinking water outlets, rather outlets used for science experiments, bathroom sinks, etc. Although the outlets are not potable (drinking) water outlets, the district is required to notify all staff and legal guardians of students of these results. The district shut down or labeled these outlets and is in the process of working with the DCMO BOCES Health and Safety Office and the Chenango County and NYS Health Department to develop a remediation plan. Once the plan has been completed, we will resample the outlets. Once the samples are at or below the acceptable levels we will post the results to the district website. All sampling records will be retained for a period of 10 years at the district office and are available for review during normal business hours.

For questions on how lead affects the body or remediation process, please contact the Chenango County Health Dept. You can also go online to the NYS Dept. of Health with the link below.

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education_materials/index.htm

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this process.

Gordon Daniels, Int. Superintendent of Schools