



West Seneca Central School District

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Matthew Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph M. Farr
Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds

September 19, 2022

RE: West Middle School, 395 Center Road

Dear West Middle Building Parents, Guardians and Occupants:

To protect public health, New York State (NYS) recently enacted a new regulation requiring that every public school in New York State test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), NYS requires that action be taken to reduce the lead to a level not to exceed 15 parts per billion.

It is vital that schools conduct these tests, as high levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. 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. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water.

The West Seneca Central School District, in accordance with legislation signed by the Governor on September 6, 2016, continues on a regular schedule to test our faucets throughout our educational buildings. We continue the process to remediate non-conforming items. We received and opened test reports, September 14, 2022 and have disabled any questionable outlets. The District has tested water sources in the past under the EPA regulations. New York State's new regulations have lowered the acceptable thresholds so at this point, we are conforming to the new regulations. The results and actions taken by the District are as follows:

WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Kitchen Sink#2 – 106 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Girls' Lav 716A Sink – 216 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Room 808 Sink – 16.1 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Nurse Sink – 23.0 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
600 Wing Storage Sink - 90 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Room 604 Sink – 31.9 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Room 606 Sink – 23.9 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Girls' Lav 616 Sink – 18.5 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled

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NOTE #1: All readings are in parts per billion.

NOTE #2: All samples have been taken after the faucets have been dormant for 8-18 hours. The samples are first draw samples which means, the sample is what actually was stored in the faucet in the past 8 -18 hours. Personal/professional good practice advises that anywhere that you get water from a faucet especially at home because your homes are not regulated to the same stringent levels that the schools are, would be to not take first draw water but turn the faucet on for a minimum of 3 seconds before using that water.

In the past few weeks in accordance with regulations, we have tested all of our educational buildings and have taken any corrective actions necessary.

The West Seneca Central School District last conducted testing for lead in the water in 2016. The District will be conducting complete testing for lead on a five-year cycle from this point forward. This current testing was delayed due to a period of time where the buildings were not in use due to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Farr
Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds
West Seneca Central School District