

December 13, 2016

Dear Auburn Enlarged City School District Residents:

This past summer, the Auburn Enlarged City School District, in partnership with the Cayuga County Department of Health, took a proactive approach to ensure the safety of our students and staff and conducted testing of all district buildings' potable water systems for lead and copper. We were pleased to inform you that 100% of the drinking and food preparation water sources had no trace of copper, and nearly 97% tested below the Environmental Protection Agency's action threshold for lead. Only slightly elevated levels were detected in six fixtures throughout the entire district, and all of those have been addressed.

In September, the Governor signed legislation requiring all school districts in New York State to test all water systems for lead contamination and to take responsive actions where necessary. These new requirements include all water outlets that could potentially be used as water sources in areas occupied by students.

Between September 23rd and 27th, under guidance from the Cayuga County Department of Health, the school district performed testing on 93 additional water fixtures that could potentially be used as water sources and had not been previously tested. After completing the tests in accordance with federal, state, and local testing guidelines, results were returned to the district last week. Only slightly elevated levels were detected in 11 sink fixtures throughout the entire district.

Below are details of the testing results, as well as the plans the school district has put in place to ensure the quality of water in our district buildings.

At William H. Seward Elementary School:

- **The bathroom sink in Room E2 had an elevated reading of 0.016mg/L of lead (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** This sink is not used by students for drinking water. The source of the lead in this location is believed to be the water fixture and/or the immediate plumbing upstream from the fixture. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only.

- **A bathroom sink in the C9 girl's bathroom had an elevated reading of 0.029 mg/L of lead (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** This sink is not used by students for drinking water. The source of the lead in this location is believed to be the water fixture and/or the immediate plumbing upstream from the fixture. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only.

At Owasco Elementary School:

- **A bathroom sink in the girl's bathroom of the B Wing had an elevated reading of 0.037 mg/L of lead (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** This sink is not used by students for drinking water. The source of the lead in this location is believed to be the faucet and/or the immediate plumbing upstream from the faucet. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only.
- **A bathroom sink in the boy's bathroom of the B Wing had an elevated reading of 0.076 mg/L of lead (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** This sink is not used by students for drinking water. The source of the lead in this location is believed to be the faucet and/or the immediate plumbing upstream from the faucet. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only.

At Genesee Elementary School:

- **The sink in the nurse's office had an elevated reading of 0.023 mg/L of lead (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** The source of the lead in this location is believed to be the faucet and/or the immediate plumbing upstream from the faucet. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only. The nurse will distribute bottled water for students to take medications.
- **The sink in Room 224 had an elevated reading of 0.017 mg/L of lead (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** This sink is not used by students for drinking water. The source of the lead in this location is believed to be the faucet and/or the immediate plumbing upstream from the faucet. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only. Students have access to a drinking fountain directly outside of this classroom.

At Auburn High School:

- **Three sinks in Room C208 had elevated readings. Sink #51 had a reading of 0.022 mg/L of lead, sink #53 had a reading of 0.042 mg/L, and sink #54 had a reading of 0.030 mg/L (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** These sinks are not used by students for drinking water. The source of the lead in these locations is believed to be the faucet and/or the immediate plumbing

upstream from the faucet. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only.

- **The Cafeteria Kitchen South Exit Handwashing Station had an elevated reading of 0.024 mg/L of lead (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** This sink is not used by students for drinking water or by staff for food preparation. The source of the lead in this location is believed to be the faucet and/or the immediate plumbing upstream from the faucet. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only.

- **The Cafeteria Kitchen East Exit Handwashing Station had an elevated reading of 0.020 mg/L of lead (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L).** This sink is not used by students for drinking water or by staff for food preparation. The source of the lead in this location is believed to be the faucet and/or the immediate plumbing upstream from the faucet. We are putting a sign above the sink that indicates it is for handwashing only.

In order to ensure the quality of water in the school district buildings, we will display signs above each of the sinks with elevated levels that indicate they are for handwashing only. Furthermore, we will be replacing fixtures and/or piping in each of these water sources and will then retest the fixtures for lead.

We take the health and safety of our students and staff seriously, and we are committed to ensuring that our water sources inside our schools are safe. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (315) 255-8800.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Pirozzolo
Superintendent of Schools