

Cairo-Durham Central School District

Office of the Superintendent

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Superintendent of Schools
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September 21, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Cairo-Durham Central School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our students, teachers and staff. As such, the District proactively decided to conduct water sampling due to regional and national concerns over the quality of drinking water in schools.

This testing occurred over the summer and we are very proud that Cairo-Durham CSD has taken these actions before they were mandated by state law. (Until recently, schools in New York State were not required to test their drinking water for lead contamination, however we voluntarily took this proactive step earlier this year in the interest of our students and to ensure the safety of our drinking water. Recent water testing legislation signed into law by Governor Cuomo on September 6, 2016 now requires school districts to test their drinking water for lead contamination, meaning that Cairo-Durham CSD is ahead of many districts across the state.)

We tested samples from all of the priority drinking water locations at each school building throughout the district (i.e., water fountains, kitchen faucets, cafeterias, and nurse's office faucets). Below is a discussion of the results from testing that occurred over the summer.

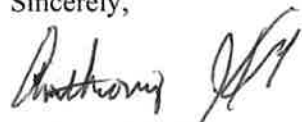
There are two thresholds that exist for lead in drinking water. When testing public water systems (as opposed to individual buildings), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states action is required if lead levels reach 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead in drinking water. When testing drinking water in individual buildings such as schools, the EPA guidelines maintain that water consumption outlets (e.g., fountains) must be taken out of service if lead levels exceed 20 ppb.

All of the water samples except one came back well below these thresholds, therefore only a single location required action. The faucet in the Elementary School Nurse's Office came back at 16 ppb, which is slightly above the EPA guideline for public water supplies but below the guideline for school buildings. Despite lead traces below the EPA guideline for schools, this faucet was immediately turned off. After consultation with our emergency management company, Needham Risk Management, the source of contamination was determined to be a pipe leading to the faucet in the Elementary School Nurse's Office. Over the summer the piping leading to this faucet was replaced. Water at this location was retested and came back at 7 ppb, which is well below the action level for the presence of lead in drinking water.

Following the remediation of this single location, we are able to confirm the safety of the drinking water in each of the district's school buildings. Additional testing is planned for faucets used for purposes other than water consumption (e.g., science labs). The district will release more information once this second round of testing is complete.

Cairo-Durham CSD will continue to keep drinking water safety as a top priority for the health and well-being of all students and staff in our schools.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Taibi
Superintendent of Schools