



Lewiston-Porter Central School District

Aiming Higher

October 6, 2016

Dear staff and parents:

Our school district is committed to protecting student, teacher and staff health. High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead cannot be absorbed through the skin but can be harmful to health if ingested or inhaled. To protect our community, and in accordance with emergency rule making issued by the New York State Department of Health, we recently tested our schools' drinking water for lead. The Department of Health requires that if lead is found at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb) at any water outlet that is currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes, that specific action be taken to reduce the lead.

In general, we are pleased to report that the Lewiston-Porter Central School District's drinking water is safe. Each water outlet has been tested. The first round of samples was submitted for testing on September 14, 2016. Initial results indicated four outlets in the High School cafeteria/kitchen area and one outlet in the Middle School kitchen exceeded the action level of 15 ppb. Those outlets were not permitted for use until the issue was remedied and the site retested. Each of those outlets had been shut down throughout the summer as a result of the capital project and was not turned on until the initial test. Proper protocol for lead testing is for the water to be motionless in the pipes for a minimum of eight hours, but not more than eighteen hours, before samples are taken. The Niagara County Health Department visited and observed the sites at issue and recommended that the District run the faucets for eight hours and then retesting at some point during the next eight to eighteen hours, which we did. The retest found all of those outlets to be below the action level. Nonetheless, the District is replacing each water fountain and/or faucet that initially tested above the action level.

Subsequent testing of all water outlets in the Primary Education Center ("PEC"), including outlets not intended to be used for drinking or cooking, was conducted on September 27, 2016. The results of that testing revealed three outlets that exceeded the action level. Those outlets are currently not permitted for use until they are remediated and retested. Two of the sinks which were over the action level for schools, were at levels acceptable for home drinking and cooking at 16.3 and 18.5 parts per billion. All three outlets were immediately labeled as non-potable and taken out of service until remediated.

To date, 131 water outlets have been tested for lead throughout the District's buildings and only eight have indicated a lead presence above the action level, five of which were likely caused by not following the testing protocol, as explained above. Any and all outlets with lead measurements above the action level have been and will continue to be promptly addressed and remedied as necessary.

Complete laboratory reports of the lead testing described above can be viewed upon request at the District's Central Office or on the District's website. The reports can be accessed on the District's website www.lew-port.com under the Announcement Section. Any applicable remediation plan that is implemented will also be made available at the Central Office and on the District's website within six weeks of the District's receipt of the laboratory report(s).

Of course, please call me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Casseri,
Superintendent of Schools

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Superintendent of Schools
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