

FORESTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

12 Water Street
Forestville, New York 14062

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October 21, 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

This is a follow-up communication related to water testing in our elementary school building. We continue to strive to be upfront, honest and transparent with our parents and community related to our water sampling. We assure you that student safety is a priority and we are taking the results of the water samples seriously.

We tested every water source at the elementary building, including hose bibs, mop sinks, and other areas not mandated. Of the 84 water samples we tested, 23 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. Since we received the results of our water sampling, we have put into action several steps. We immediately turned off the water supply to each bubbler location that tested above the limit. We notified the County Health Department within hours of receiving the results. We had a faculty meeting to discuss the results and discuss next steps. We labeled all locations that tested at the actionable limits with signs, which include pictures, letting users know that they are to use those locations for handwashing only. We sent out our first communication to our parents and posted the full report on our school website. Throughout the process we have been meeting with and talking with any and all parents that may have questions or comments for us to consider. We have also filed paperwork with the State Education Department so that we may be partially reimbursed for expenses.

We want you to know that the cafeteria sink on the south wall that tested at an actionable level is not being used for food prep or cooking. The main cafeteria sink located on the east wall is used for all food prep and cooking. The dishwasher water line is within the acceptable limits and has been in use for cleaning dishes.

In preparation for implementing our remediation plan we have been in contact with environmental consultants, vendors, contractors and our school architectural firm. Once we identify the source, we can address it. As part of our remediation plan, we will be implementing one or more of the following in the sources that tested at the actionable level: replacing fixtures, replacing fittings, installing filters, removing fixtures, purchasing additional bottle filling stations. We have already begun our remediation plan in that we have quotes for the work that needs to be done, and we have parts on order to complete the work.

Once steps of the remediation plan have been implemented, we will retest the water in those locations. The water will not be in use for drinking or cooking until the test results meet the New York State Department of Health Standards. As a district, we will continue to be vigilant in addressing and testing the water to meet the State and County requirements.

As mentioned above, we have already filed information with the State Education Department so that we may receive partial funding for the testing and remediation. We will also be reaching out to our local legislators to ask for funding. It's important to remember that we are already engaged in a three phase project to address the sinks, cabinets, faucets and drinking fountains for all elementary classrooms. Last year, we completed 9 classrooms, this year we are expected to complete 9 classrooms and next year we will finish all classrooms in the elementary building.

If you have any questions about food service, please contact Karen Giardina, our Director of Food Service at 965-6530. If you have questions about the water testing process or about the water quality in our schools, please contact John Robertson, our Director of Facilities at 965-6531. If you have a specific question about your child's classroom, contact Lindsay Marcinelli, our Elementary Building Principal at 965-2742. If you would like to meet with me or talk to me directly, please feel free to call me at 965-6539.

Just a reminder, a copy of our water testing results is available at any of the Forestville Central School District building's main offices, which are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have posted a fact sheet prepared by the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services to our website. Results are posted at www.forestville.com on the District website.

For more information about water quality and sampling for lead contact the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services at 753-4000.

Sincerely,

Renee Garrett
Superintendent of Schools

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