

Wynantskill Union Free School District

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Superintendent of Schools

November 4, 2016

Dear Gardner-Dickinson families,

We have received results of lead testing that was conducted on water fixtures throughout Gardner-Dickinson School that we would like to share with you.

As you may know, all school districts are testing for lead as part of a new state requirement. Water fixtures were independently tested by Questar III Health & Safety and sent to a certified environmental laboratory.

Of the 53 water fixtures throughout the school, seven had results above the 15 parts per billion level set by New York State. All of the positive results were in either faucets or sinks. **There were no issues with any of the school's water fountains.** Details are listed below.

- Sink in Middle School Science Lab – 38 parts per billion
- Bathroom faucet in Middle School wing – 219 parts per billion
- Bathroom faucet in Middle School wing – 135 parts per billion
- Faculty bathroom faucet in Middle School wing – 21.8 parts per billion
- Faculty bathroom faucet in Middle School wing – 50.8 parts per billion
- Principal's bathroom faucet – 80.4 parts per billion
- Sink sprayer in kitchen – 23.6 parts per billion

As soon as we received the results, we immediately informed staff that the identified faucets cannot be used for drinking water, but are safe for washing hands. Signs were placed on all faucets. The sink sprayer in the kitchen, which is not used for food preparation, will be replaced as soon as possible. The other faucets will be replaced as part of the Capital Project.

How was water testing conducted?

Water received from municipal water sources is tested on a regular basis for contaminants such as lead, but testing individual fixtures in buildings has shown that lead from piping, solder, or fixtures can leach into the water in small amounts after it has entered the building and before it is used.

The "on-again, off-again" nature of water use at schools can raise levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipe or lead solder. As a result, water could contain higher levels of lead.

(over)

Schools were required to collect samples after water had been sitting in the plumbing system for hours. This "first draw" sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that fixture than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify fixtures that have elevated lead.

Want to learn more?

If you would like to learn more about lead, and how you can test your home, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has excellent information at www.epa.gov/lead.

If you have any questions about the district's results, please contact me at 283-4600 ext. 14. As always, the health and safety of our students is our top priority.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Reardon
Superintendent