



Pulaski Academy and Central School

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Dr. Brian K. Hartwell
Superintendent of Schools

November 29, 2016

Dear PACS MS-HS:

I am writing to provide the most recent update on the testing process for high lead levels in our water. Last May I sent a letter home indicating that the nine component districts that comprise Oswego County were proactively working in conjunction with CiTi BOCES and a third party vendor to test our District's drinking fountains, ice machines and outlets used in food preparation. On September 9th a subsequent letter was sent home updating everyone on the process and identifying only two outlets in our school district with lead levels over the Environmental Protection Agency's threshold of 20 parts per billion. Those two particular outlets are in the School Based Health Center at Lura Sharp and have been changed accordingly.

Also, in early September Governor Cuomo signed landmark legislation mandating that schools in New York State test drinking water for lead contamination. As a county, we felt good about our proactive approach that preceded the new mandates. The new regulations that followed, however, have made it necessary for us to test additional outlets that did not meet our initial criteria over the summer. Additionally, the new regulations lowered the EPA's threshold of 20 parts per billion to 15 parts per billion.

Given this new mandate and set of regulations we tested the remainder of the outlets (mostly bathroom sinks, classroom sinks, utility sinks) at Pulaski MS-HS prior to the November 11th NYSDOH/NYSED deadline. I received the test results yesterday, November 28th. Now that all testing is complete, I am happy to report that Pulaski MS-HS is very fortunate that none of the outlets identified to be over the threshold were drinking fountains or in the kitchen or food preparation areas.

In total, 150 outlets were tested at the MS-HS. The report that I received yesterday from our third party testing service reveals 27 outlets tested with levels at or above the aforementioned threshold. They include:

- 3 – Bathroom sinks
- 3 – Locker Room sinks
- 21 – Classroom sinks (Rooms 206 (2), 210 (12), 211B (1), 212 (3) and 213 (3))

Signage indicating that potable water from “this” outlet is not for drinking will be provided for these areas from CiTi. Temporary signage has been provided in the interim. Outlets in our other buildings have been tested as well. This letter will appear on our District's website and will serve as our latest update.

Providing our students, staff and community with a safe and secure environment conducive to teaching and learning is central to our mission and vision. Thank you for your continued support!

All the best,

Brian