

Grand Island Central School District

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www.grandislandschools.org

December 9, 2016

Dear Grand Island Secondary Families:

To protect public health, New York State (NYS) recently enacted a new regulation requiring that every school test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), NYS requires that action be taken to reduce the lead.

It is vital that schools conduct these tests, as high levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in the lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water.

The Grand Island Central School District tested its drinking water for lead in our secondary buildings on October 25th (Middle School) and October 28th (High School) and subsequently received our results a few days ago. Of the 419 water samples we tested in the two secondary buildings, only 43 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. Our schools will remain open as we remediate the sources that were found to be above the 15 ppb threshold. The timetable for the remediation of each one of the identified sources will depend on the availability of parts, installation and the process of retesting. It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back in service and available for drinking and/or cooking, until the sources are fully mitigated and meet the New York State Department of Health standards. Listed below are the sites that exceeded the threshold and the results obtained from the sampling.

Veronica E Connor Middle School

141 samples tested, 16 exceeded the 15 ppb

Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Room 144 - second sink from door – left faucet – the test result was 15.6 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 144 - third sink from door – right faucet – the test result was 15.5 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be re-mediated and retested.
- Room 144 - fourth sink from door – left faucet – the test result was 22.5 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be re-mediated and retested.

- Room 144 - seventh sink on back wall (second from cabinet) – left faucet – the test result was 19.7 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 142–third sink from door – left faucet – the test result was 21.2 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 172 – sink in the rear of the room by the door to room 174 – the test result was 71.4 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 172 - sink located in far right corner cooking area – the test result was 20.5 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 174 – sink in the rear of the room by the door to room 172 – the test result was 40.9 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 189 - for this sink from the door – the test result was 24.8 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 188 – Northwest sink in the middle of room – rear left faucet – the test result was 32.8 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 188 – sink on wall – left faucet – the test result was 102 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 188 – sink and wall – right faucet – the test result was 134 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Girls bathroom near room 141- left middle porcelain sink – the test result was 18.1 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Girls bathroom near room 141 - far right porcelain sink next to wall – the test result was 1000 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Girls locker room – sink in coach’s bathroom – the test result was 21.1 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Science storage room sink located near room 144 - had a test result of 17.9 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.

High School

278 samples tested, 27 exceeded the 15 ppb

Sources found in rooms or other locations

- Room 123B – North sink – left faucet - the test result was 18.6 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 123B - water fountain – the test result was 37.3 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 113- spigot - The test result was 15.3 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 112 – sink – boys team locker room storage – the test result was 17.3 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 112 – sink in coach’s office – between room 113C in room 112C – the test result was 15.2 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 110F – Office A – hand washing sink – the test result was 36.2 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 152 – sink – the test result was 21.2 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.

- Room 171 - front left lab bench – right faucet – the test result was 18.3 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 171 - rear right lab bench – left faucet– the test result was 16.4 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 213 – hood faucet – the test result was 674 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 211 - hood faucet – the test result was 35.9 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 214 – hood faucet – the test result was 93.6 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 223 – hood faucet – the test result was 73.8 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 223 – hood faucet – the test result was 72.5 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 223A – hood faucet – the test result was 558 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 216 – hood faucet – the test result was 48.7 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 216 – right sink on rear wall – the test result was 77.6 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 216 – left sink on rear wall – the test result was 76.8 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 217 – front left bench – right faucet – the test result was 39.1 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 217 – front middle bench – left faucet – the test result was 42.4 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 217 – rear middle bench – right faucet – the test result was 41.7 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 217 – rear right bench left faucet – the test result was 44.8 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 217 – rear wall – left faucet – the test result was 17.7 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 163 – teacher’s desk sink – the test result was 19.2 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Room 162 – teacher’s desk sink - the test result was 17.2 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Water fountain in the pool area by the girl’s locker room – the test result was 19.2 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.
- Water fountain in pool area by boy’s locker room – the test result was 19.6 ppb, this source is now out of service and will be remediated and retested.

We will continue water testing in other buildings where employees work or students visit such as our Transportation facility, District Office, the Maintenance buildings and our Eco Island site.

Once again, the timetable for the remediation of each one of the identified sources will depend on the availability of parts, installation and the process of retesting. It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back in service and available for drinking and/or cooking, until the sources are fully mediated and meet the New York State Department of Health standards.

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at any of the district building main offices, which are open during the school day or on our district website at <http://www.grandislandschools.org/>. For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Mr. James Rozler, Director of Facilities at 773-8823 or Mr. Robert McDow, Assistant Superintendent of School Business and Finance at 773-8805.

For information about water quality in sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or Erie County Department of Health at 961-6800. You may also wish to visit their website at <http://www2.erie.gov/health> . If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 716-773-8801.

Sincerely,



Brian Graham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

BG:jjjs