Discover Yourself at DCMO BOCES
Delaware Chenango Madison Otsego

To: Robert W. Harrold Staff
Superintendents
Robert W. Harrold Students

From: Perry T. Dewey III, District Superintendent

Date: November 21, 2016

Re: Water Sampling Results

On September 6, 2016, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation requiring all school districts and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) in New York State to test potable water systems for lead contamination and to take responsive actions. To implement this new law, the Department of Health issued emergency regulations, titled Lead Testing in School Drinking Water -10 NYCRR Subpart 67-4 (Subpart 67- 4), effective September 6, 2016.

Schools are responsible for identifying the total number of outlets that require sampling. Samples must be first draw samples, collected in 250 ml containers, and taken from a cold water outlet where the water has been motionless in the pipes for a minimum of 8 hours but not more than 18 hours. Samples must be analyzed by a laboratory that is certified under the Department of Health's Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP).

If lead levels are detected above 15 parts per billion (ppb) at any potable water outlet, the school must discontinue use of that outlet until a lead remediation plan is implemented to mitigate the lead level, and test results indicate that the lead levels are at or below the action level. The school must ensure that building occupants have an adequate alternate supply of potable water for drinking and cooking until the remediation plan is implemented. Schools must report the exceedance to the local health department (LHD) within one business day. Test results must also be provided in writing to all staff and parents no more than 10 business days after receiving the report.

Pursuant to the regulations, O&M sampled all potable water outlets that are currently or potentially used for drinking and cooking purposes including but not limited to bubblers, drinking fountains, and faucets. Faucets may be located anywhere on school property where drinking water is currently or potentially obtained, including but not limited to the athletic field. First draw samples were drawn using the EPA's 3 T's Guidelines. I am happy to say that most drinking water outlets in the district passed. Unfortunately, 3 Drinking Fountains and some of the outlets not used for drinking did not pass.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND that most of these outlets are *NOT* drinking water outlets, rather outlets used for science experiments, bathroom sinks, etc. Although the outlets are not potable (drinking) water outlets, the district is required to notify all staff and legal guardians of students of these results. The district shut down or labeled these outlets and is in the process of working with the Health and Safety Office and the Delaware County and NYS Health Department to develop a remediation plan. Once the plan has been completed, we will resample the outlets. Once the samples are at or below the acceptable levels we will post the results to the district website. All sampling records will be retained for a period of 10 years at the district office and are available for review during normal business hours. Below you will see a chart that contains the location of the sampling and the results for that testing.

	BOCES Robert W Harrold Campus		
		mg/ML	
Sample ID	Sample Location	Results	Explanation
Kit-1	Kitchen Sink	0.0196	
Kit-3	Kitchen Sink	0.0193	
Kit-5	Kitchen Sink	0.0213	
Kit-6	Kitchen Sink	0.0225	
Bakery	Kitchen Bakery Sink	0.0207	
108	1st Floor Men’s Room	0.0151	
109-2	#2 Faucet in 1st Floor Ladies Room	0.0275	
206	Classroom Faucet	0.0161	
219-Exam	Nurse's Exam Room	0.0236	
229-1	#1 Faucet 2nd Floor Ladies Rm by Elevator #1	0.0174	
235-1	#1 Faucet 2nd Floor Ladies Rm @ end of Hallway	0.0258	
236-3	#3 Faucet in Men's Rm @ end of Hallway	0.032	
301-1	2 Faucets in 3rd Floor Ladies Rm by Elevator #1	0.0179	
301-2	2 Faucets in 3rd Floor Ladies Rm by Elevator #1	0.0224	
302-1	#1 Faucet in 3rd Floor Men's Rm by Elevator #1	0.0278	
306	Classroom Faucet	0.0175	
307-1	Ladies Room Faucet 1	0.0208	
307-2	Ladies Room Faucet 2	0.0157	
307-3	Ladies Room Faucet 3	0.0185	
311-2	#2 Faucet in Gym Men's Locker Room	0.0185	
316L-1	#1 Faucet in Nursing Lab	0.0158	
505	Vis Com Kitchen Faucet	0.0216	
504-BR	Security & Law Bathroom Faucet	0.0192	
AutobodyDF	Auto Body Drinking Fountain	0.0183	Turned Off
Autotechbr	Auto Tech Coed Bathroom	0.0291	
BLDG-tradedf	Building Trades Drinking Fountain	0.017	Turned Off
CONSBR	Conservation Equipment Shop Bathroom	0.0246	
HHLBR	Head House Ladies Room	0.0296	
HHDF	Head House Drinking Fountain	0.0165	Turned Off
HH-K	Head House Kitchen Faucet	0.0152	
O&MBR-4	4th Floor O&M Bathroom	0.0501	
400	Kitchen Faucet	0.0344	
	.015 mg/ml equals 15 PPB		

We have also recently learned that we exceeded the 90th percentile on our Lead and Copper sampling. This sampling is required under a separate regulation then noted above. Because of this exceedance we must include the following mandated language as part of our notification:

Introduction:

The New York State health Department and Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most locations have very low levels above the action level of 15 parts per billion, or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water. Under the State Sanitary code we were required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by February 26, 1994. This program includes corrosion control treatment, source water treatment)if necessary) and public education. We are also required to replace each lead service line if the line contributes lead concentrations of more than 15 parts per billion after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation please call Rick Shaw at 607-335-1249. This notice explains the simple steps you can take to protect yourself by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

Health effects of lead

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, and certain types of pottery, porcelain, pewter and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. Also, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination, like dirt and dust, which rarely affects an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and try to make sure they only put food into their mouths.

Lead in drinking water

Although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, lead in drinking water can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. It is estimated that drinking water can make up to 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Lead is usual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily because the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and at times, pipes made of lead that connect to the water main (service lines). 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 to 8.0%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon can contain high levels of lead.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

If a water test shows that the drinking water drawn from a tap contains lead above 15 parts per billion, then you would take the following precautions:

1. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has stood for more than six hours. The longer water resides in our plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 15 to 30 seconds. If there is a lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps one minute, before drinking, (we have no lead service lines in our facility). Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing

system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one or two gallons of water. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible use the first flush water to wash dishes, water plants or other purposes that do not involve cooking and drinking.

2. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw from the cold water tap and heat it on the stove.

3. Remove loose lead solder and debris from the plumbing by removing the faucet strainers from all taps and running the water from 3 to 5 minutes. Thereafter, periodically remove the strainers and flush out any debris that has accumulated.

4. If copper pipes are joined with lead solder that has been installed illegally since it was banned in 1986, replacement of the lead solder with lead free solder will be considered. Lead solder looks dull gray and when scratched with a metal object looks shiny.

5. If there is a lead service line and it contributes more than 15 parts per billion of lead to your drinking water after our comprehensive treatment program is in place we are required to replace the line. Acceptable replacement alternatives include copper, steel, iron, and plastic pipes. We will have an electrician check our wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to pipes corrosion may be greater. We will determine if our wiring can be grounded elsewhere, if necessary.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentration in your drinking water. However, if a water test shows that the drinking water coming from our tap contains lead concentrations more than 15 parts per billion after flushing and after we have completed our actions to minimize lead levels, then we may want to take the following additional measures:

1. Purchase or lease a water treatment device to remove lead. Treatment devices are limited because each unit treats only the water that flows from the faucet to which it is connected, and all of the devices require periodic maintenance and replacement. Devices such as reverse osmosis systems or distillers can effectively remove lead from our drinking water.

2. Purchase for drinking and cooking bottled water that is certified by the New York State Department of Health.

You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. State and local government agencies that can be contacted include the NYS Department of Health, Oneonta District Office (607) 432-3911. They can provide you with information about our water supply plus information about the health effects of lead and how to have our child's blood tested for lead, if necessary.

For questions on how lead affects the body or remediation process, please contact the Delaware County Health Dept. You can also go online to the NYS Dept. of Health with the link below.

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/education_materials/index.htm