



UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Buildings & Grounds / Food Service / Technology
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Michael M. Ferraro
Director of Support Services

May 4, 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians: Martin Luther King Elementary School

On September 6, 2016, Governor Cuomo signed legislation requiring the testing of drinking water in New York public schools for lead levels. The new legislation is explained in a document entitled: “State Department of Health Issues New Regulations to Mandate Lead Testing in New York Elementary Schools. New legislation request all schools be tested by June 30, 2021, please visit the following link:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-landmark-legislation-test-drinking-water-new-york-schools-lead>

The regulations adopted by the N.Y.S. Department of Health require that a public school take samples from all water outlets in each of its buildings to ascertain whether any lead readings in the water exceed the state required “action-levels.” A “water outlet” is defined as a potable water fixture currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes, including, but not limited to, bubblers, drinking fountains, and faucets.

In anticipation of this legislation, we have tested all applicable water fixtures to test for lead levels. A full Comprehensive Report of the sampling program is available on the school’s website: <http://www.uticaschools.org/mlk>.

There were 66 water fixtures tested; and 2 showed lead levels above the allowable 15 ppb (parts per billion) marks:

- Location: Rm. 124 – Drinking Fountain 15.5 ppb
- Remediation: Posted sign reading: “Do Not Drink – Hand Washing Only”
- Location: Rm. 123 – Girls Bathroom Sink 17.9 ppb
- Remediation: Posted sign reading: “Do Not Drink – Hand Washing Only”

We have already addressed the outlets which tested in excess of state requirements by temporarily shutting off the drinking fixtures impacted and posting signage that alerts students and staff to avoid drinking the water from these outlets. It should be noted that under the State's regulations, the water from these outlets could still be used for handwashing and cleaning purposes. We will conduct a second sampling of water from these fixtures. Official re-testing results should be available within 4 to 6 weeks. If as a result of a second testing the lead levels in the potable water sources are found to exceed state requirements, the Utica City School District has prepared a remediation plan which will be put into place to correct these deficiencies. In the meantime, the district will continue to insure that all those using each of our school buildings will be provided with an adequate supply of water for drinking and cooking. We will send a follow-up letter to you regarding those results and post them to our website as well.

If you should have any questions on the above at any time, please feel free to contact me on my office phone: (315) 792-2231.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Ferraro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael M. Ferraro
Director of Support Services