



## UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents & Guardians: Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

On September 6, 2016, Governor Cuomo signed new 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 by October 30<sup>th</sup>, and in the Secondary Schools by October 31<sup>st</sup>; New York is the First State in the Nation to Complete Lead Testing in All School Districts by the End of 2016." To access this document, 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/jefferson>.

There were and 113 water fixtures tested; and 11 showed lead levels above the allowable 15 ppb (parts per billion) marks:

Remediation [See Key below.] Location:

- \* Restroom – Bathroom Sink .0175 ppb
- \* Rm. 149 – Classroom Sink .0163 ppb
- \* Rm. 154 – Classroom Sink .0309 ppb
- \* Rm. 154 – Classroom Sink .0268 ppb
- \* Rm. 152 – Classroom Sink .0233 ppb
- \* Rm. 140 – Classroom Sink .0211 ppb
- \* Rm. 139 – Classroom Sink .0289 ppb
- \* Rm. 133 - Girl's Bathroom outside Cafeteria,  
across from Music Room– Bathroom Sink .0330 ppb
- \* Rm. 131 - Boy's Bathroom adjacent to  
Girl's Bathroom – Bathroom Sink .0182 ppb
- \* Rm. 113 – Classroom Sink .0437 ppb
- \* Rm. 205 – Classroom Sink .0167 ppb

**KEY:**

( \* ) Replaced faucet; 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, a remediation plan will be put into place to correct these deficiencies. In the interim, 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 second 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,



Michael M. Ferraro  
Maintenance Foreman

cc: Bruce Karam – Superintendent of Schools  
Lori Eccleston – Dir., Curriculum & Instruction, K-12  
Mary Kay Van Dreason – Dir., Food Service  
Alicia Mroz – Admin. for Pre-K/Student Programs  
Building Principal  
FILE: Lead-In-Water 2016