

UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 7, 2017

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 30th, and in the Secondary Schools by October 31st; 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>.

As noted in our letter to you of January 4, 2017, there were 113 water fixtures tested; and *11 showed lead levels above the allowable .015 ppb (parts per billion) marks. 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.

In February 2017, we conducted a second sampling of water from these fixtures. [*Please note that certain types of outlets were not required to be retested.] For those fixtures retested and requiring it, we installed permanent signs reading: "Do Not Drink." Please see below:


Location: Rm. 153 – Classroom Sink .0762 ppb
Location: Rm. 139 – Classroom Sink .0243 ppb

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Again, 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 2016/17