UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Buildings & Grounds / Food Service / Technology

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Michael M. Ferraro

Director of Support Services

June 7, 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians: Herkimer 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/herkimer**.

As noted in our letter to you of May 4, 2021, there were **71** water fixtures tested; and ***6** showed lead levels above the allowable 15 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.

May 24, 2021, we conducted a second sampling of water from these fixtures. The results of this second sampling showed out of the **6** originally tested, ***0** are still above the actionable level of 15 ppb marks, **[*Please note that certain types of outlets showed lower levels and are still presenting above the acceptable ppb and this is due to non-usage of outlets during hybrid learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.** For all outlets above the actionable level, permanent "Do Not Drink" signage will be posted.

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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
Director of Support Services