

Pioneer Central School District



November 10, 2016

Dear School Community/Staff/Students,

It is a priority of Pioneer Central School District to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for its students, and clean water is no exception. 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. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers, and lakes. New laws that went into effect in 2014 reduced the amount of lead that plumbing fixtures can contain from 8% to 1%. Brass faucets, fittings and valves – including those advertised as “lead free” – may still contribute lead to drinking water. On September 6, 2016 new regulations became effective requiring all public schools in New York State to test their drinking water fixtures for lead.

Pioneer Central School District is in compliance with New York State Public Health Laws requiring all schools and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to test potable water outlets for lead contamination, to remediate contamination where found, and to notify parents of children and the public of test results. Levels of lead at any water outlet above 15 parts per billion (ppb) require action to remediate this issue.

As required, Pioneer Central School District sampled all water sources in Arcade Elementary, Delevan Elementary and the Middle School for lead testing on September 24, 2016. All water sources in the High School were sampled on October 2, 2016. As provided to us under specific protocols, first draw water samples were taken after letting the water remain unmoving in the pipes over a period of 8 to 18 hours. The results of this testing for Arcade Elementary were received on November 9, 2016 and of the 135 water samples tested, 24 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. A copy of the full Arcade report has been posted to the District’s website for public review.

The results of this testing for Delevan Elementary were received on November 10, 2016 and of the 89 water samples tested, 7 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. A copy of the full Delevan report has been posted to the District’s website for public review.

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The preliminary results of this testing for Middle School were received on November 10, 2016 and of the 170 water samples tested, 49 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. The official results will be posted to the District website once received.

These results indicate a small percentage of total fixtures tested as being above the 15 ppb action level. The results of the lead testing for the High School have not been received.

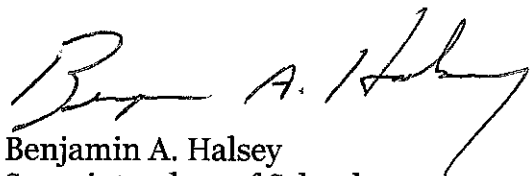
The following steps have been taken to reduce lead exposure from drinking water in fixtures that exceeded the Action Level:

1. If the fixture was a drinking fountain, a bubbler, a classroom or office sink then it was turned off immediately.
2. If the fixture was located in the kitchen then it was turned off immediately and an alternate water source used for preparing food.
3. If the fixture was a bathroom sink or shower, signs were posted that the water should not be used for drinking.
4. If the fixture was a lab sink not used for drinking water such as in science labs, then signs were posted that the water should not be used for drinking.
5. If the fixture was a custodial sink or other sink not used for drinking water then signs were posted that the water should not be used for drinking.

The next step is to develop a remediation plan that will be approved and guided by the experts in the field of water remediation. The timetable for remediation of each of the identified sources will depend on the availability of parts, installation, and the process for retesting. It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back into service and available for drinking or cooking until the sources are fully mitigated and meet New York State Department of Health Standards. We will continually provide updates on the District website as updates become available.

For more information about water quality and sampling for lead contact the Wyoming County Department of Health at 585-786-8894 or the Cattaraugus County Department of Health at 716-701-3391.

Sincerely,



Benjamin A. Halsey
Superintendent of Schools