

Ongoing Water Testing  
October 31, 2016

On October 18, 2016, we reported on some preliminary lead water testing that the District completed proactively last spring. The results were very good for all of our buildings. (See October 18, 2016 letter below this document.) The October 18, 2016, communication also outlined the new regulations, released on September 6, 2016, that school districts are required to follow.

Based on these requirements, the District has identified and completed all of the water testing that has been required in our buildings. While we are waiting on the lab results, and are cautiously optimistic based on our earlier building sampling tests, we would like to offer the following current information:

**Approximate Number of Additional Tests Completed – (880)**

(These are over and above those (59) reported on October 18, 2016)

East Hill Elementary – 92 Additional Tests – Completed on September 19, 2016  
Onondaga Road Elementary - 86 Additional Tests – Completed on September 26, 2016  
Split Rock Elementary - 85 Additional Tests – Completed on September 26, 2016  
Stonehedge Elementary - 172 Additional Tests – Completed on September 21, 2016  
Camillus Middle School - 180 Additional Tests – Completed on October 27-28, 2016  
West Genesee Middle School - 105 Additional Tests – Completed on October 20-21, 2016  
West Genesee High School - 160 Additional Tests – Completed on October 26-27, 2016

We have worked very closely with our health safety risk manager from OCM BOCES to identify all locations that require testing under the new regulations. Based on this guidance, we are confident that we have satisfied the testing requirement, pending the reporting of the detailed results, and if needed, required remediation. Again, based on our samples we are hopeful that our results will be similar. With that said, be assured that any results that come back positive, or even approach positive levels, will be addressed in an expeditious manner.

The District is required to upload the results of the tests that have been completed on a New York State data base that the general public will have access to. We will be uploading information, as allowed, prior to the November 11, 2016, deadline. Please remember, at this point, the District has met all of the sample testing deadlines. However, the turn-around time of the laboratories testing our samples is out of our hands.

When the results are available, we will upload them immediately to the State data base as well as provide a new update online, inclusive of a direct link to the New York State data base for West Genesee.

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Lead in school drinking water was brought to the forefront last year. West Genesee was proactive, as shown below in the following March 21, 2016 Notes from the Superintendent Excerpt:

*Water Quality in Schools: About six months ago you might have read about water quality issues in Flint, Michigan. Government officials allegedly knew that water quality was suspect but covered it up until the situation was finally exposed. Closer to home, a community near Ithaca was having water issues which prompted the school to test their water and they found that the water contained more lead than recommended. Similar findings have occurred in a community in New Jersey, and one more in a Rochester suburb.*

*United States Senator Chuck Schumer recently declared the public water supply a top priority and is making grant monies available (water testing is very expensive) for schools to test their water for lead (water testing has not been required and remains not required). While we do not foresee issues with our water, we have decided to participate in the grant and test our faucets and drinking fountains.*

*The testing will begin the week of April 5 and will be conducted by the OCM BOCES Health and Safety Department. If we find any high levels of lead from any faucet or drinking fountain we will let you know. The remedy is to replace the pipe or connector that may be causing the sample to test positive. The Onondaga County Water Authority tests the water constantly and our area of Syracuse is not known for lead pipes, but we are taking the better safe than sorry approach.*

Between April 5, 2016 and April 21, 2016 we conducted 118 representative water tests throughout our buildings, with a high focus on hallway fountains, cafeteria sinks and classroom fountains. Each location was put through two types of testing. The first test is an immediate draw test; completed immediately when you turn the faucet on. The second test is completed after allowing the faucet to run for 30 seconds, then taking a sample. We were very happy that the result of all these tests fell below the EPA Guidelines, which was 20 PPB (Parts Per Billion) at that time. If you have a test that is above 20 PPB it is considered "action level" for school drinking water and requires mediation. The following shows the tests that were completed:

**East Hill - BLD (Below Detection Level) to 3.7 PPB (Parts Per Billion)**

Main Lobby  
Kitchen  
Classroom  
Nurse's Office  
Staff Lounge

**Onondaga Road - BLD (Below Detection Level) to 2.4 PPB (Parts Per Billion)**

Main Lobby  
Kitchen  
Classroom  
Nurse's Office  
Staff Lounge

**Stonehedge - BLD (Below Detection Level) to 9.5 PPB (Parts Per Billion)**

Boys Locker Room  
Girls Locker Room  
Six (6) Classrooms  
Red Gymnasium  
Nurse's Office  
Blue Kitchen  
Gold kitchen

**Split Rock - BLD (Below Detection Level) to 9.1\* PPB (Parts Per Billion)**

Gymnasium Hall  
Kitchen  
Three (3) Classrooms\*  
Cafeteria

- One classroom initially tested at 19.0 PPB. Although this was below the EPA guidelines, at that time, we remediated that classroom and are happy to note that that classroom tested as follows;
  - First Draw - 4.7 PPB
  - 30 second Draw - Less than 1.0 PPB

**Camillus Middle - BLD (Below Detection Level) to 6.3 PPB (Parts Per Billion)**

Cafeteria  
Kitchen  
Locker Room Hallway  
Staff Lounge  
Second Floor hallway  
Main Office  
Hallway by Nurse's Office  
Nurse's Office

**West Genesee Middle - BLD (Below Detection Level) to 11.0 PPB (Parts Per Billion)**

Kitchen  
First Floor Hallway  
Second Floor hallway  
Third Floor Hallway  
Main Office  
Nurse's Office  
Staff Lounge  
Custodial Office

West Genesee HS - BLD (Below Detection Level) to 8.5 PPB (Parts Per Billion)

Trainer's Office  
Lower Gymnasium  
Lower Gymnasium Lobby  
Kitchen  
Nurse's Office  
Guidance Office  
Main Office  
Classroom A130  
Auditorium Lobby  
Music Wing Staff Room  
Hallway Near Room 237  
Hallway Near Room 249  
B2 Hallway  
Hallway Across from E105  
Custodial Office

While the results of these tests certainly are encouraging, we are in the process of completing full testing of all of our buildings in accordance with the following new guidelines:

Effective September 6, 2016, the Commissioner of Health by Public Health Law sections 1370-a and 1110, Subpart 67-4 of Title 10 (Health) of the Official Compliance of Codes, rules and Regulations of the State of New York

[http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/emergency/docs/2016-09-06\\_lead\\_testing\\_in\\_school\\_drinking\\_water.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/emergency/docs/2016-09-06_lead_testing_in_school_drinking_water.pdf)

These new guidelines have lowered the "action level" to 15 PPB for lead in school drinking water. Please be reassured that all of the previous test were not only below the old standard of 20 PPB, but are all **BELOW** the new standard of 15 PPB.

As of October 18, 2016, we have completed over 400 tests in all of our elementary schools combined. We anticipate over 510 additional tests being done in the middle schools and high school before the end of this month. These new guidelines require the first draw test only. This is very restrictive as the first draw tests in every previous test produced higher PPB counts or the same PPB count. This is logical, as the faucets have no opportunity to flush themselves.

The costs of this testing is \$20 per test. During our initial voluntary testing last spring we spent nearly \$2,400. We will spend approximately an additional \$18,200 during the complete phase two testing. Costs on top of this would be any required remediation if a test was to be higher than 15 PPB.