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Buildings & Grounds / Food Service / Technology & Communications / Transportation



UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT / 320 ELIZABETH STREET / UTICA, NY 13501

January 22, 2024

Dear Parent & Guardians of Watson Williams Elementary School:

Safe and healthy school environments can foster healthy and successful children. To protect public health, the Public Health Law and New York State Health Department (NYS DOH) regulations require that all public schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) test lead levels in water from every outlet that is being used, or could potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 5 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter (μL), the NYS DOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

The "on-again, off-again" nature of water use at most schools can raise lead levels in school drinking water. Water that remains in pipes overnight, over a weekend, or over vacation periods stays in contact with lead pipes or lead solder and, as a result, could contain higher levels of lead. This is why schools are required to collect a sample after the water has been sitting in the plumbing system for a certain period of time. This "first draw" sample is likely to show higher levels of lead for that outlet than what you would see if you sampled after using the water continuously. However, even if the first draw sample does not reflect what you would see with continuous usage, it is still important because it can identify outlets that have elevated lead levels.

On January 10th, there were **46 water fixtures** tested; and **0** showed lead levels above the allowable 5 ppb (parts per billion) marks.

Outlets that tested with lead levels above the action level (5 ppb) were removed from service unless an outlet is a sink faucet needed for handwashing. In that case, a sign was posted at the outlet indicating that the sink is not to be used for drinking. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

A full comprehensive report of the sampling program is available on the school's website:

<http://www.uticaschools.org/WatsonWilliams>

Select the tab "Lead Testing" on the left-hand side of the page. The report and any pertinent documents are listed.

For information about lead in school drinking water, go to:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/LeadTestinginSchoolDrinkingWater.html>

For information about NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, go to:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

If you should have any questions on the above, at any time, please feel free to contact me at 315.792.2231 .

Thank you,

Michael M. Ferraro
Chief Operations Officer