

Cairo-Durham Central School District

Office of the Superintendent

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Anthony Taibi
Superintendent of Schools

October 14, 2016

Dear Cairo-Durham Families,

I am writing to provide an update on the results of our ongoing district-wide water testing. In September, we released the results from the first round of water testing that occurred over the summer. Preliminary testing results revealed that all of the water samples from primary drinking locations except one came back below the EPA's guidelines for lead in drinking water. A faucet in the Cairo-Durham Elementary (CDE) School Nurse's Office came back slightly above the EPA guideline of 15 ppb. This faucet was immediately turned off and the piping leading to this faucet was replaced over the summer.

The samples taken in the initial testing were first-draw samples. This means that water samples were collected in the morning before any water was used from the outlets.

A second round of water sampling was conducted and analyzed based on the most recent New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) standards. These broader standards include specific sampling procedures and testing water from faucets used for purposes other than water consumption (e.g., bathroom or science laboratory sinks). New legislation states that action is required if lead levels exceed 15 ppb. Results from samples taken at the Middle/High School and Durham Elementary have not yet been received (the District will release information about these buildings once the reports are received).


The results from the second round of testing at Cairo-Durham Elementary identified a few areas that require remediation (of the 69 water samples taken, 6 returned evidence of lead levels above the NYSDOH standard). Most of the locations with elevated lead levels are not typically used for water consumption or food preparation, with the exception of one drinking fountain (which has since been turned off and removed from service):

- One custodian room sink
- Three art room sinks
- One sink in Room 117
- One water fountain (outside Room 113)

Although the majority of these areas are not considered to be primary drinking locations, all were shut off and immediately taken out of service as a short-term safety measure as soon as the report was received, late in the day, on October 12, 2016. Please be assured that all other water locations at CDE tested below the state threshold for lead and are safe for drinking.

To remediate the affected areas, we are already in the process of performing flush sampling of the six locations listed above, as well as additional first-draw samples, to ensure the problems are correctly identified. This method of sampling will help to determine the sources of lead contamination (that is, whether the elevated lead levels are due to the piping or the fixtures). The most appropriate course of remediation for each location will be based upon the second sample results. These areas will not be put back into service until the additional sample results return below the action level of 15 ppb.

The continued health and safety of our students and staff remains a top priority. We will keep you updated as this process continues.

Sincerely, 
Anthony Taibi
Superintendent of Schools