

**Cairo-Durham Central School District****Office of the Superintendent**

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Anthony J. Taibi

Superintendent of Schools

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November 10, 2016

Dear Cairo-Durham Families,

I am writing to report the results of water testing that occurred at Cairo-Durham Middle/High School this fall. As you may know, a preliminary round of water testing that occurred over the summer revealed no lead issues in primary drinking locations. A second round of water sampling was conducted and analyzed based on the most recent New York State Department of Health 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 parts per billion (ppb).

The results from the second round of water testing at CDMS/HS identified a few areas that require remediation. In total, four locations (out of 122 samples taken) returned evidence of lead levels above the EPA standard of 15 ppb. Most of the locations with elevated lead levels are not typically used for water consumption or food preparation, with the exception of one water cooler (which has actually been out of use for several years):

- One water cooler
- One cafeteria kitchen sink (this location is not used for any food preparation and has only been used in the past for cleaning and handwashing)
- One outside spigot (used for transportation purposes such as cleaning buses)
- One sink in Room D9 (an old science room sink)

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 when the report was received on November 3, 2016. Please be assured that all other water locations at CDMS/HS 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 four locations listed above. 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 on the flush sample results. These areas will not be put back into service until the additional sample results return at or 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 J. Taibi,  
Superintendent of Schools