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November 7, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and other Members of the LPCSD School Community:

This letter is intended to inform you about the results of our recent water testing. Earlier this year we collected samples from every potable water outlet currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes, and tested each sample for the presence of lead. On November 4th we received the results of that testing. Of 31 water fixtures sampled in both schools we found that one drinking fountain located in the Middle & High School tested slightly above the established levels. That fountain is now closed and cannot be used. We will undertake the necessary repairs including replacing piping that feeds that fountain, and the identified fountain will not be operable again until further testing confirms that its water is safely under the lead threshold. Please read below for further details.

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 (NYSDOH) regulations require that all public schools and 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 15 parts per billion (ppb), which is equal to 15 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), the NYSDOH requires that the school take action to reduce the exposure to lead.

What are the results of the first LPCSD draw testing?

Lake Placid Elementary School Building

1. All required locations (14 samples) were tested on September 20, 2016.
2. Results of the tests were negative.

Lake Placid Middle/High School Building

1. All required locations (17 samples) were tested on September 20, 2016.
2. Results of the tests were negative expect for one location. The water fountain adjacent to room 113 on the first floor of the Middle High School Building tested at .034 mg/l. The acceptable level is .015 mg/l.

What is first draw testing of school drinking water for 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.

What is being done in response to the results?

The water fountain that tested above the acceptable limit at the Middle/High School Building has been removed from service. A remedial action of replacing the piping is planned and the outlet will be retested before the location is returned to service. Outlets that tested below the action level remain in service with no restrictions.

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead is a metal and known neurotoxin, particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of children under 6 years old. Lead can harm a young child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead exposure during pregnancy may contribute to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. There are many sources of lead exposure in the environment, and it is important to reduce all lead exposures as much as possible. Water testing helps identify and correct possible sources of lead that contribute to exposure from drinking water.

Should your child be tested for lead?

The risk to an individual child from past exposure to elevated lead in drinking water depends on many factors; for example, a child's age, weight, amount of water consumed, and the amount of lead in the water. Children may also be exposed to other significant sources of lead including paint, soil and dust. Since blood lead testing is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level, parents should discuss their child's health history with their child's physician to determine if blood lead testing is appropriate. Pregnant women or women of childbearing age should also consider discussing this matter with their physician.

Feel free to call or email with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Dr. Roger P. Catania
Lake Placid Central School District Superintendent

Additional Resources:

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

http://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 Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention, go to:

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

For more information on ways to reduce your child's risk of exposure to lead, go to:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526/> (available in ten languages).