



# Glens Falls

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Paul Jenkins, Superintendent of Schools  
Trent Clay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Robert Yusko, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business

October 27, 2016

Dear Parents and Staff:

The Health and Safety of students and staff at Glens Falls City Schools is our number one priority. On September 6, 2016 Governor Cuomo signed legislation that requires all public schools in New York State to test all potable water sources for lead. Glens Falls City Schools contracted with Ambient Environmental to collect water samples in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) accepted protocol.

On the morning of September 22, 2016 a total of 189 sources of water were collected at our three elementary buildings and 102 at our middle school. These samples were analyzed at Pheonix Environmental Laboratories. Pheonix is certified by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The school obtained results on October 26, 2016. Of the 291 sources tested, 29 or 9% of the interior faucets were above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Health Action Level for schools.

The maximum contamination level (MCL) set by the EPA and NYSDOH is 15 parts per billion. Of the 29 faucets that tested higher than 15 parts per billion, only 2 were drinking fountains. One fountain is in room 110 in Jackson Heights and one is in the first floor hallway at Big Cross. Both fountains have been shut off. The remainder of the faucets that tested above 15 parts per billion were sinks in classrooms, custodial closets, and one of the two sinks in the Kensington elementary kitchen. We also had 16 exterior spigots that tested above 15 parts per billion.

After receiving the analytical results the district took immediate action by closing all of the drinking water outlets in question, and posting "hand wash only" signs at the remaining faucets. The school will determine the source of lead in each of these outlets and remediate the problem for each one. Once these have been fixed, Glens Falls City Schools will be sampling water from all areas again to make sure we have rectified any issues.

According to the EPA, lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning. Additionally, human skin does not absorb lead in water so even if water contains lead over the state's action level, it is safe for hand washing, cleaning, or science applications. For more information about lead levels and drinking water, visit the EPA's website <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

While we know that this information may cause you some concern, we are taking the necessary steps to address the situation and confirm the safety of water throughout the school. There is nothing that we take more seriously than the well-being of our students and staff.

We will keep you informed about this issue and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Jenkins  
Superintendent of Schools