

FREEPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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August 16, 2017

August 17, 2017 updates printed in blue

August 25, 2017 updates printed in green

Parents/Families of the Freeport Area School District:

Over the past six months, much has been in the news regarding the presence of lead in drinking water. Although a public institution on a public water supply is not required to conduct testing, as a proactive measure we sought to confirm that our water supply is safe. To this end, in February, the District retained the service of a testing laboratory to conduct random tests along the supply chain in each building. The testing results confirmed that our water supply is safe. We also communicated with our two municipal authorities to review their own results which confirmed the same.

Wanting to learn more about water quality, we conducted more research and were represented at a training on this important issue. As a result, we decided to begin making water testing a part of our normal inspection protocol. It was our intention to create a database establishing a baseline of testing that we could monitor through additional testing in future years. In late July, all fixtures in all buildings commonly used as drinking water or consumption sources (water fountains, kitchen sinks) were identified, labeled, and two test draws taken from each totaling nearly 200 samples throughout our four buildings. Hand washing and lab sinks, toilets, and urinals were not tested. Our goal was to determine if, even with a confirmed safe supply chain, we had any fixtures that were unknowingly deteriorating and causing any exposure at those individual draw points. Our findings/results that were just recently received are below:

- Of the nearly 200 tests, only 6 locations had any detectable levels of lead. Those locations are as follows:
 - One sink in the Buffalo Elementary School kitchen (although nothing detectable in 2nd draw)
work conducted – retested – nothing detectable
 - Two separate High School water fountains
work conducted – retested – nothing detectable
one fountain permanently removed from service
 - Four sinks in the Home Economics Room in the High School
work conducted – retested – levels decreased – additional equipment to be replaced – retesting scheduled
equipment replaced – retested – nothing detectable

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- One sink in a High School classroom
work conducted – retested – nothing detectable
 - One sink in the High School Faculty Lounge
work conducted – retested – levels decreased – additional equipment to be replaced – retesting scheduled
equipment replaced – retested – nothing detectable
- Neither the Middle School nor South Buffalo Elementary School had any locations with detectable levels of lead

It is important to note, that of the 6 locations with detectable levels of lead, 5 locations were still below the Department of Environmental Protection recommended action level of .015 mg/L or 15 parts per billion. However, any detectable trace of lead at any one of these locations was enough for us to remove them from service, take action to remediate, and retest.

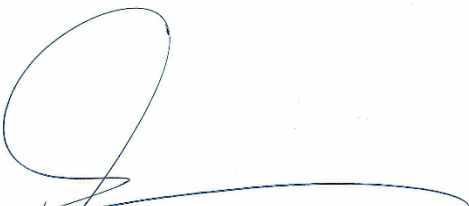
Actions we have taken as a result:

- Each of those identified fixtures/draw points was shut off and removed from service
- Each fixture or line to those fixtures has been replaced with new equipment or will remain permanently out of service
- Follow up testing has taken place to confirm remediation – these locations will NOT be put back into service until confirmed remediated
- Begin clearly labeling drinking/consumption vs. washing/hygiene sources for users

This communication is provided to our families to reassure you that we are going above and beyond to protect our students, employees, and community. This type of testing will be part of our inspection cycle now and going forward. This also represents our intent to be completely transparent with our efforts.

We thank our school community for the continued support of our schools and our efforts to keep everyone safe. Please visit our district website at www.freeport.k12.pa.us for informative FAQs and the full listing of the test results. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 724-295-5141.

Wishing our students and families a wonderful, safe start to the new school year,



Ian M. Magness
Superintendent