

Afton Central School

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October 28, 2020

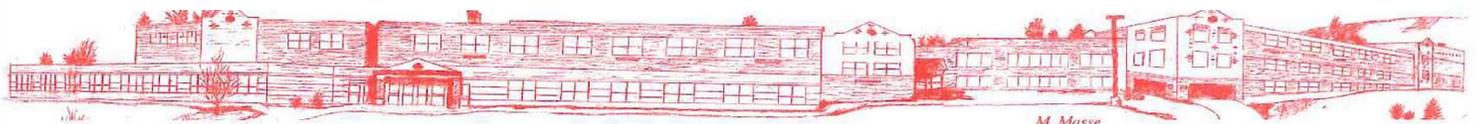
Dear Afton Community:

On September 6, 2016, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation requiring all school districts and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) in New York State to test potable water systems for lead contamination and to take responsive actions. To implement this new law, the Department of Health issued emergency regulations, titled Lead Testing in School Drinking Water - 10 NYCRR Subpart 67-4 (Subpart 67-4), effective September 6, 2016.

Schools are responsible for identifying the total number of outlets that require sampling. Samples must be first draw samples, collected in 250 ml containers, and taken from a cold-water outlet where the water has been motionless in the pipes for a minimum of 8 hours but not more than 18 hours. Samples must be analyzed by a laboratory that is certified under the Department of Health's Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP).

If lead levels are detected above 15 parts per billion (ppb) at any potable water outlet, the school must discontinue use of that outlet until a lead remediation plan is implemented to mitigate the lead level, and test results indicate that the lead levels are at or below the action level. The school must ensure that building occupants have an adequate alternate supply of potable water for drinking and cooking until the remediation plan is implemented. Schools must report the exceedance to the local health department (LHD) within one business day. Test results must also be provided in writing to all staff and parents no more than 10 business days after receiving the report.

Pursuant to the regulations, the Afton Central School District sampled 104 potable water outlets that are currently or potentially used for drinking and cooking purposes including but not limited to bubblers, drinking fountains, and faucets. Faucets may be located anywhere on school property where drinking water is currently or potentially obtained, including but not limited to the athletic field. First draw samples were drawn using the EPA's 3 T's Guideline. The District has received test results back for Afton Elementary School and the Afton Middle/High School. Test results showed 2 spots that exceeded the allowable lead levels. All identified areas have been closed off from use, with the exception of sinks where only hand-washing can occur as these outlets are "not-potable" water. One sink is located in the nurse's office and one sink is located in the copy room where identified. Signs were put up notifying that they were for handwashing only. The District believes that the cause for these identified areas of concern are due to the fact that the buildings and campus were basically closed for six months due to COVID-19 and the pipes and water outlets did not receive adequate flushing, as in years past. When the same locations were tested in 2018, we had no identified areas of concern.



Although all of the outlets are not potable (drinking) water outlets, the District is required to notify all staff and legal guardians of students of these results. The district is in the process of working with the DCMO BOCES Health and Safety Office and the Chenango County Health Department to develop a remediation plan. Once the plan has been completed, we will resample the outlets. Once the samples are at or below the acceptable levels, we will post the results to the district website. All sampling records will be retained for a period of 10 years at the district office and are available for review during normal business hours. Regulations require the District to notify all staff and legal guardians of students of these test results.

For questions on how lead affects the body or remediation process, please contact the Chenango County Health Department.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this process.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. McNamara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Timothy J. McNamara
Superintendent of Schools