

**CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Chatham, NY 12037**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

June 15, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Good afternoon. As you know, the District decided in April to conduct lead and copper testing of our water as a precautionary measure, in light of issues that have recently occurred in other schools. We had originally expected the results in May, but they have been delayed due to a high volume of testing occurring in the laboratory.

As I will report to the Board on June 21, we have begun to receive some of our results, and we expect the rest in the near future. All of the testing was “first draw”, meaning that the samples were taken first thing in the morning. This is the point when levels would be at their highest because water has been resting in pipes and fixtures for a long period of time and has the opportunity to absorb any lead or copper. After running water for a short time, levels would be much lower.

For the test results received so far, all copper levels are within normal ranges, as well as most of the lead levels. We do have slightly elevated lead levels in a few spots that are considered sources of drinking water. We are isolating these immediately to prevent consumption until we have the opportunity to investigate further.

- In Chatham Middle School, one kitchen faucet had lead levels slightly below the EPA standard, which is .020 or 20 parts per billion and one had a lead level at 21 parts per billion. These faucets have been shut off.
- At MED, one kitchen faucet had lead levels slightly below the EPA standard, and one had a lead level at 21 parts per billion. These faucets have been shut off.
- One water fountain in an end hallway at Chatham Middle School measured 34 parts per billion. This water fountain has been shut off.
- One water fountain in a locker room at Chatham Middle School measured 20 parts per billion. This water fountain has been shut off.
- One classroom water fountain at MED measured 20 parts per billion. This water fountain has been turned off and bottled water provided in that classroom.

There are similar lead results in 18 bathroom sinks, 8 at CMS and 10 at MED, but these are not used for drinking or food. Nevertheless, for the remainder of the school year we will be running water to “flush” these faucets of any “first draw” effect before students arrive each day. Over the summer, we will investigate what remediation might be appropriate in these locations.

Because we have always placed a priority on safety, we are using an abundance of caution in interpreting and responding to these results. At this time, water testing is not required in schools, but given issues that have arisen elsewhere, we thought it was a prudent step. While the results we have received to date are not a dramatic concern, we are addressing them immediately.

We anticipate receiving the rest of the results in the near future. I will continue to keep you updated.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Nuciforo*

Cheryl A. Nuciforo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent