



COOPERSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL

District Offices, 39 Linden Avenue
Cooperstown, New York 13326-1496

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December 12, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In September 2016, a state law went into effect that requires all public school districts to test water for lead. The law requires school districts to sample all water outlets currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes in buildings that may be occupied by students and to submit those samples to a state-approved lab for analysis.

The state has established an action level of 15 micrograms of lead per liter, typically referred to as “parts per billion (ppb)”. To put this number into perspective, the NYS Department of Health uses the 15 ppb action level to promote remediation of a water outlet rather than to identify a health-based or exposure level. The new state process for lead testing in public schools is stricter than the municipal standard.

Forty-eight (48) drinking fountains were tested at both schools. Only one (1) tested higher than the state standard. That outlet was located in the elementary school cafeteria and had a level of 17 ppb. It was immediately taken out of service. In the elementary cafeteria, drinking water and cups are being provided to the students. Hand washing sinks in the elementary school classrooms that tested above the state limit were also shut off. The other sites that exceeded state standards are not accessible to students. All outlets that tested higher than the state mandated level will be remediated and re-tested prior to being put back into service and will be regularly tested per state regulations.

The complete water testing results and additional information may be found on the district website at www.cooperstowncs.org. Please direct questions about adverse effects of lead exposure and/or testing for lead exposure to your family physician or the Bassett School Based Health Center at Cooperstown at (607) 547-5069 (elementary) or (607) 547-1105 (junior/senior high school).

Contact George Hula, Director of Facilities, at (607) 547-2650 or via email ghula@cooperstowncs.org with any questions about the District’s lead results and/or remediation efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Virgil".

Michael Virgil
Interim Superintendent